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**MAIL MANAGEMENT
IN
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
AND
AGENCIES**



Paperwork Management Series

TREASURY BOARD, OTTAWA, CANADA
October, 1968

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ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE
SERVICE DE SA MAJESTÉ

CANADA
POSTAGE PAID
PORT PAYÉ

MAIL MANAGEMENT
IN
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
AND
AGENCIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	<i>Page</i> 1
1. Purpose of This Handbook	1
2. Definition of Mail Management	1
3. Function of a Mail Room	1
4. Government Mail Costs	1
5. Methods of Reducing Mailing Costs	2
 PART I – ORGANIZING THE MAIL ROOM	 3
Section 1 – Principles	3
1. The Five Principles	3
2. Planning	3
3. Organizing	3
4. Co-ordinating – Controlling	3
5. Budgeting	3
6. Mail Room Organization Chart	4
Section 2 – Space, Layout and Equipment	7
1. Basic Arrangement	7
2. Approach to the Layout Problem	7
3. Stages in Preparing Layout	8
4. Work Flow Layout	9
5. Modern Complex Equipments	11
6. Summation	11
Section 3 – Staff	13
1. General	13
2. The Mail Room Manager	13
3. A Mail Services Supervisor	14
4. Mail Clerks	14
5. Messenger and Distribution Services Supervisor	15
6. A Messenger	16
7. Staff Scheduling	16
8. Training	16
9. Job Knowledge Questionnaire	17
10. Security	19
11. Checklist for a Mail Manager	20
 PART II – OPERATING THE MAIL ROOM	 21
Section 1 – Incoming Mail	21
1. General	21
2. Receipt from Post Office	21

3. Emptying Mail Bags	21
4. Primary Sort	21
5. Personal Mail	24
6. Primary Sort – Job Operating Procedures	24
7. Registered Incoming Mail	26
8. Registered Incoming Mail – Job Operating Procedures	26
9. Incoming Valuables	27
10. Incoming Valuables – Job Operating Procedures	28
11. Diplomatic Mail	29
Section 2 – Mail Opening	31
1. General	31
2. Significant Points	31
3. Routing of Mail Opened	32
4. Foreign Language Mail	32
5. Mis-directed Mail	33
6. Opened Envelopes	33
7. Time Stamping	33
8. Mail Opening Aids	34
9. Mail Opening – Job Operating Procedures	35
Section 3 – Messenger Services	36
1. Purpose	36
2. Principles of a Messenger Service	36
3. Messengers Delivery of Registered and Other Special Mail	38
4. Messengers – Job Operating Procedures	38
Section 4 – Outgoing Mail	39
1. General	39
2. Dispatch Schedules	39
3. Bulk Envelope Mailing	39
4. Sorting Outgoing Mail – General	41
5. Sorting First Class Mail	41
6. Sorting Third Class Mail	42
7. Sorting Parcel Post	42
8. Air Mail	42
9. Registered Mail Outgoing	44
10. Registered Mail Outgoing – Job Operating Procedures	45
11. Diplomatic Mail Outgoing	47
12. Other Special Mail Services	47
13. Mail Inquiry Slip	47
14. Lost Mail Inquiry	48
15. Service Verification Form	50
16. Mail Sealing Machines	51
17. Specialized Operations	51
PART III – THE ROLE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT	53
1. Information on Post Office Regulations	53
2. Advice on Addressing and Preparation of Outgoing Mail	54
3. Inquiries and Reports	54
4. Post Office Assistance	54

APPENDICES

A – Incoming Mail Operational Checklist	55
B – Messenger Services and Inter-office Mail Operational Checklist	59
C – Outgoing Mail Operational Checklist	61
D – Bibliography	65

PLATES

<i>Plate</i>	<i>Page</i>
I Mail Room Organization Chart	5
II Typical Mail Room Operations	6
III Model Mail Room Work Flow	11
IV Pictographic Outline of a Small Mail Room	12
V Primary or Intra Departmental Mail Sorting Rack	22
VI Sorting Incoming Mail	23
VII A Primary Sort Station	25
VIII A Receipt Bill Sample	27
IX Incoming Mail Opening and Distribution Unit	30
X Incoming Mail Condition Stamp Sample	31
XI The Routing Puzzle	33
XII Mail Opening Station in a Large Department	34
XIII Illustration of an Electric Mail Opener	35
XIV Messenger Routes	37
XV Group or Bulk Mailing Sort Rack	40
XVI Mail Stuffing or Packaging Counter	43
XVII Sample of Bill from a "Registered Letter Book"	44
XVIII Sample of Form 33-86-019 for Registered Mail	46
XIX Sample of Incoming /Outgoing Mail Inquiry Slip	48
XX Sample of Lost Mail Inquiry Form	49
XXI Service Verification Form	50

This handbook has been prepared as a co-operative effort by personnel of the Records Management Association, the Records Management Branch of the Public Archives of Canada, officials of the Post Office Department and the Management Improvement Policy Division of the Treasury Board Secretariat.

Other publications in this Paperwork Management Series:

1. *SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION GUIDE FOR HOUSEKEEPING RECORDS*

March 1968

2. *RECORDS SCHEDULING AND DISPOSAL*

September, 1968

INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

One author has described an efficient organization, of any size, as one that does things right, and an effective organization as one that does the right things.

The purpose of this handbook, in general terms, is to help government Mail Room Managers to operate efficiently and effectively, i.e., *to do the right things right*. More specifically, we hope this book will be:

- (a) a convenient reference for the Mail Room Manager and for all others who have any responsibility for mail handling operations;
- (b) an outline of sound mail management practices that will provide our government with the best value for each mail handling dollar we spend; and
- (c) an authoritative source of technical information and of operational guidelines that will enable all Mail Room personnel to do their jobs better.

2. DEFINITION OF MAIL MANAGEMENT

Mail management means:

- (a) the receiving, sorting, opening, routing, controlling, and distributing of *incoming* mail;
- (b) the collecting, sorting, and distributing of paperwork coming from within the building or area serviced by the Mail Room; and
- (c) the collecting, preparing, sorting, controlling, and dispatching of *outgoing* mail.

3. FUNCTION OF A MAIL ROOM

- (1) The Mail Room provides a vital service to its department or agency. This service must maintain the flow of mail, documents, files, and other paperwork in three channels:

- 1. from outside to offices within the department or agency;
- 2. from office to office within the building or area being serviced; and
- 3. from offices within the department or agency to outside individuals or organizations.

4. GOVERNMENT MAIL COSTS

The activities of the federal government have great importance in the business, social, and economic functions of our society. These activities usually must depend on the efficiency and effectiveness of our Mail Room services to achieve the many objectives of government. We send and receive a vast amount of mail each day. This mail, in addition to the time and stationery required to compose, type, and sign it, costs money:

- (a) to process within the departments and agencies;
- (b) to transport to and from the Post Office; and
- (c) to process at the Post Office.

5. METHODS OF REDUCING MAILING COSTS

Mail processing within a department or agency should be included in senior management's budgetary control systems to ensure that:

- (a) bulk envelope mailings are used for large quantities of mail addressed to region, district and field offices, and to other addresses, to reduce costs to the Post Office and, eventually, to the department;
- (b) motor vehicles, when used only for mail collections and deliveries, are hired on contract rather than purchased by the department, to reduce departmental transportation costs;
- (c) all mail is separated into its correct mailing class (first, second, etc.), and also pre-sorted into groupings like airmail and registered mail, as well as by city, province, etc., to reduce Post Office processing costs;
- (d) special services, like airmail and registered mail, are used only when necessary, to reduce mail transportation costs;
- (e) "window envelopes" are used as much as possible, to reduce addressing costs.

PART I

ORGANIZING THE MAIL ROOM

Section 1 – Principles

1. THE FIVE PRINCIPLES

The basic principles of planning, organizing, co-ordinating, controlling and budgeting apply to the mail room and messenger services as they do to any other area of management. These principles apply not only in setting up or modifying existing operations but also apply in the daily routine of a mail room.

2. PLANNING

The mail room manager must conduct surveys to determine the volume of mail to be processed, where and when the mail must be delivered and collected, and how much time must be allotted for complete pick-up and delivery schedules. He must establish work-flow patterns, both within the mail room and for the messenger routes for internal and external delivery, and plan the proper mail processing routines for the efficient flow of mail through the unit.

3. ORGANIZING

This responsibility includes the allocation of duties and responsibilities to the staff members and the systematic use of other resources. The manager must determine who is to be assigned to specific jobs, how many of his staff will be required to perform each operation, and when the particular jobs must be performed.

4. CO-ORDINATING – CONTROLLING

(1) These functions may require to be organized at a level more senior than the Mail Room Manager for the larger departments. In such cases, they will be part of the major duties of the Records Manager who will be required to co-ordinate the activities of more than one records office with the mail room services and operations as well as the several large branches of the department.

(2) The Records Manager will be required to ensure that the messenger services do not overlap and that the mail will not be controlled at more than one point within the department. This co-ordinating and controlling function must be reviewed periodically to ensure that the original methods and procedures are still being carried out or that modifications for improvement are introduced when necessary.

(3) In smaller departments, an experienced Mail Manager should be able to resolve most problems that might arise without difficulty.

5. BUDGETING

Budget forecasts for the operation of the mail room will normally be performed under the direction of the Records Manager for the headquarters requirements. These forecasts would include such areas as the bulk postage payment system, any equipment replacement needs, and the procurement of additional operating equipment when justified. The consolidation of all the other field mail rooms estimates for the bulk postage payment figures would then be undertaken by some other office within the administrative services of the department.

6. MAIL ROOM ORGANIZATION CHART

(1) Plate I shows one concept of the organization of a mail room. This will normally be applicable to a larger department and there will be three distinct areas of major operation:

- (a) one for the incoming mail;
- (b) one for the internal messenger services of delivery and pick-up activities: this may require service within one building or both external and internal service for several separated buildings occupied by the same organization; and
- (c) one for the outgoing mail.

(2) Plate II shows in some descriptive detail all the varied operations encountered in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of a Mail Room Manager whether such operations are for a large or a small department.

MAIL ROOM ORGANIZATION CHART

PLATE I

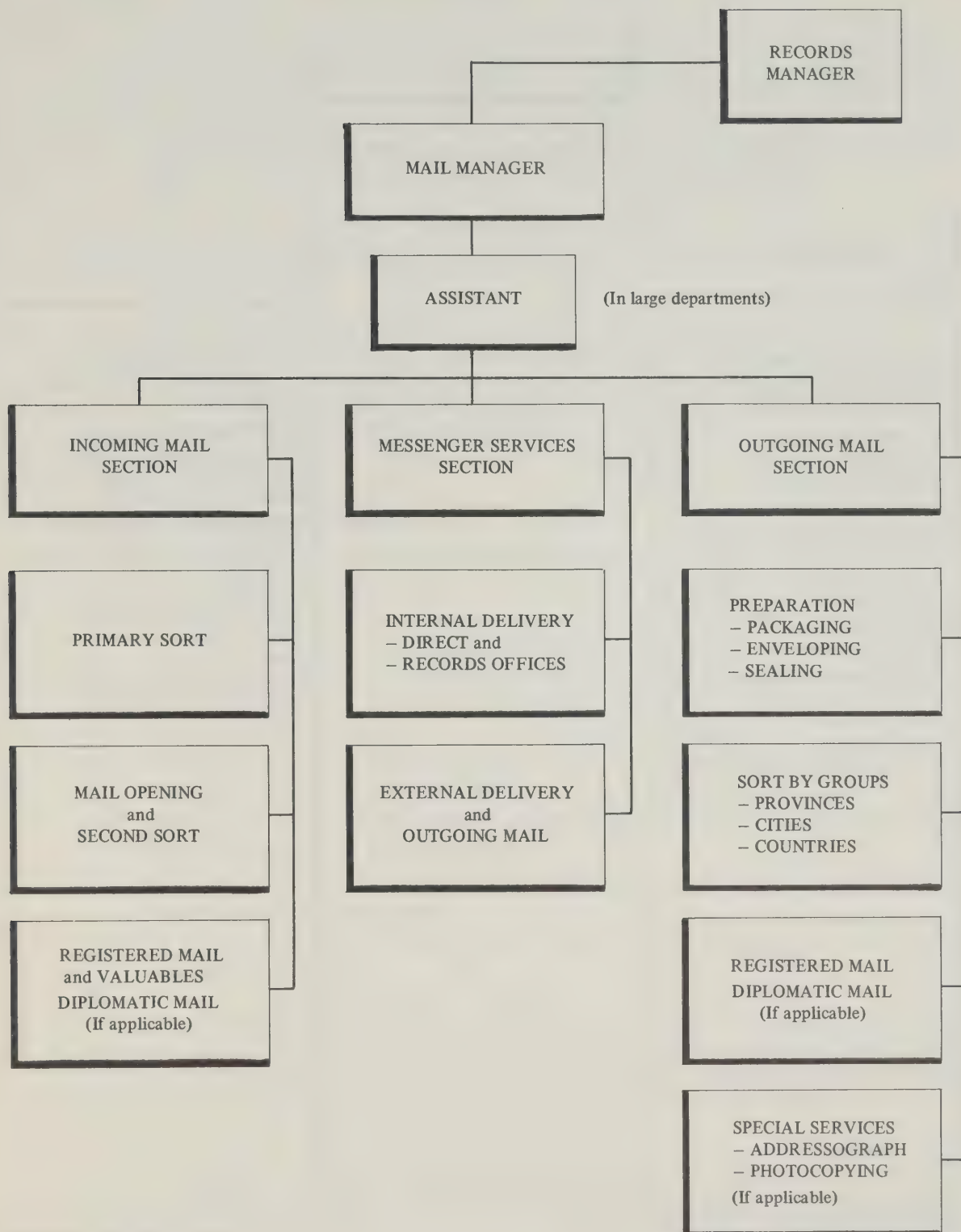
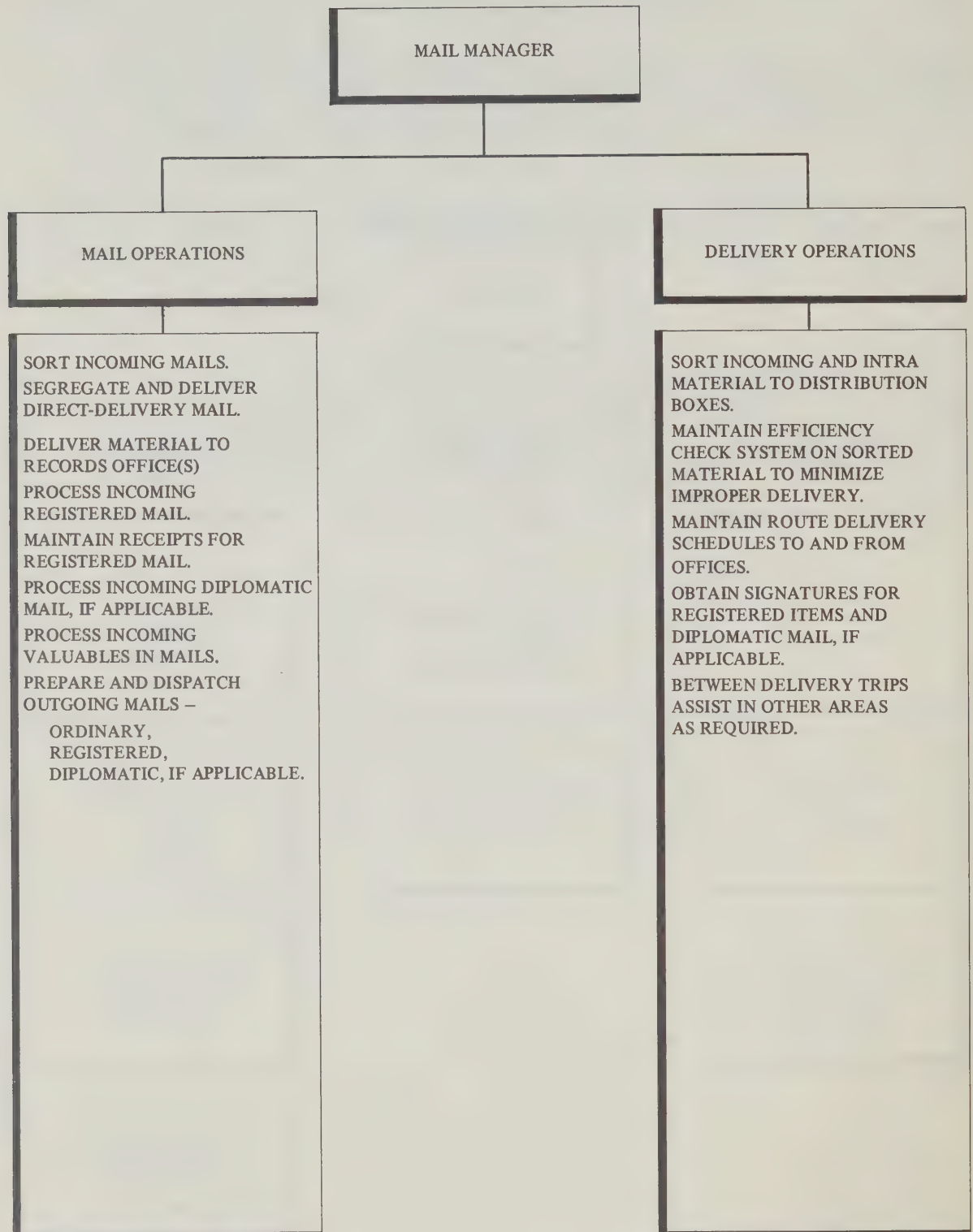


PLATE II

TYPICAL MAIL ROOM OPERATIONS



Section 2 – Space, Layout and Equipment

1. BASIC ARRANGEMENT

(1) Space and layout refer to the physical arrangement of all mail rooms and their facilities of furniture and equipment. When assessing the arrangement which is to be made, attention must be paid to the space required for necessary storage and movement of mail within the mail room. In addition, space which will be required for the servicing and maintenance of the facilities also needs consideration. The flow of incoming mail must be arranged so that a natural sequence is followed through the mail room to the actioning offices while outgoing mail will have its last processing point next to the exit.

(2) To achieve a well laid out mail room, the basic considerations include:

- (a) reduction of the distances required for the movement of mail and the motions of personnel processing it;
- (b) the rate at which work flows through the unit;
- (c) the use of all space as effectively as possible in both horizontal and vertical directions;
- (d) flexibility so that re-arrangements can be readily introduced to meet changing demands;
- (e) convenience for servicing and maintenance; and
- (f) adequate security.

2. APPROACH TO THE LAYOUT PROBLEM

(1) The approach to a layout problem is the same as the systematic approach to any other management problem. The major considerations are:

- (a) study the problem: the nature and scope of the job must be clearly defined at the beginning;
- (b) establish the facts involved: data must be gathered on mail volume, mail flow, dispatch times, service requirements as to delivery frequency, proper allocation of internal delivery points, and any other relevant factors. Where past records are used, it is necessary to ensure that the information is factual;
- (c) restate and clarify the problem in the light of the facts obtained: this may show that the original problem was not properly defined;
- (d) analyse and decide on the best solution: weigh the various considerations against one another, assemble and evaluate the data and compare;
- (e) initiate action for approval: detailed plans must be agreed upon by all concerned once the solution has been decided upon; and
- (f) follow up: ensure that the accepted layout continues to meet the demands of a changing or expanding operation.

(2) The location of the mail room should be chosen so that it is near an elevator and as close to the main records office as possible. Ideally, space allocation within the mail room should be divided to correspond to the distinctive operations. The incoming mail entrance should be as distant as possible from the exit to the internal delivery flow direction to the departmental actioning offices.

(3) As an aid to complete planning, the experience of other departments should be investigated. Such matters as the volume figures of other departments and the actual space area assigned to their mail rooms will afford valuable data for comparison and will assist in arriving at a logical decision. In general, the size of the mail room is usually in proportion to the volume of work and quality of service it will provide.

3. STAGES IN PREPARING LAYOUT

(1) The actual preparation of a mail room layout consists therefore of the accumulation and study of all the facts available. This will entail compiling a mail room inventory which will be applied:

- (a) to establish a list of the special equipment which is peculiar to the needs of a mail room,
- (b) to establish the floor area required for this special equipment along with the other normal office furniture and effects as well as providing sufficient other space for movement and storage facilities; and
- (c) to make templates for each piece of equipment whereby various different arrangements on a floor plan of the allotted space may be tried out.

(2) In addition to the normal office furniture, the following is given as a typical list of the special mail room equipment required. This represents the requirements for a large volume operation and judicious selection should be made for smaller requirements:

- (a) a flat-bed hand truck for transporting the mail bags to and from the motor vehicle which operates between the department and the Post Office;
- (b) proper sort racks with bases for first primary sort of incoming mail fitted with suitable internal-office identification designations (see Plate V);
- (c) proper mail opening facilities with suitable table-top sort rack-trays (see Plate IX);
- (d) a mechanical or electric letter opener, if justified by volume of mail (see Plate XIII);
- (e) a time-stamp for specific items which justify this equipment e.g. tenders;
- (f) an electric bostitch, if justified by volume of mail;
- (g) proper internal messenger service hand delivery vehicles;
- (h) outgoing mail preparation equipment including:
 - (i) wrapping table for packaging (see Plate XVI),
 - (ii) wrapping paper in rolls with dispensing rack,
 - (iii) a counter-boy tape dispenser,
 - (iv) a ball of twine with holder;
- (j) sort racks with bases for outgoing mail identified for required bulk envelope mailing preparation (see Plate XV);
- (k) a second set of sort racks with bases for Post Office groupings of outgoing mail, i.e. registered, airmail, provincial groups, local delivery, overseas, mail for U.S.A., etc.;
- (l) a scale to control Post Office weight limits for packages and to calculate postal expenditures so that these are kept within the estimated budget figures;
- (m) a sealing meter with printing head for sealing envelopes, if required;
- (n) mail bag holders suitable to volume output requirements;
- (o) various rubber stamp aids to promote ease of different operations (several of these are illustrated in Part II).

(3) In using the templates on the floor plan of the allotted space, the measurement of each piece of equipment should be recorded. The layout will include all the above equipment and also the normal office furniture items. In addition, the space required for the movement of personnel and of the mail delivery vehicles must be kept in mind. The aisle widths should be sufficient to allow freedom of movement and to prevent interference between the different operations of the mail room.

(4) The relative positions of the equipment can be determined by a trial method of different arrangements. At this stage, consideration must be given to the position of equipment from the following points of view:

- (a) the flow of incoming mail;
- (b) the flow of intra-departmental material, i.e. mail, documents, files, etc.;
- (c) distribution of aisles or passageways;
- (d) dimensions of the whole area; and
- (e) positions of fixed obstructions such as pillars, recesses, etc.

4. WORK FLOW LAYOUT

(1) A work flow layout or line production (see Plate III) is one in which equipment is arranged according to the sequence of operations necessary to perform a particular job. This type of layout is usual in mail rooms and should be followed, subject to any special needs. When the equipment is placed according to the sequence of operations, work flows in a continuous line and additional walking, doubling back and duplication of actions are avoided or at least reduced.

(2) The most effective arrangement of equipment can be determined by the use of string diagrams or flow charts with the following considerations re-emphasized:

- (a) mail should flow naturally from the entrance through the mail room without backtracking or duplication of functions;
- (b) space and equipment should be arranged to permit the use of additional staff at any one work station when required during peak periods; and
- (c) space should be allowed for the silent hours accommodation of the mobile equipment such as flat-bed trucks and hand delivery vehicles.

5. MODERN COMPLEX EQUIPMENTS

(1) Mail Room Managers will keep abreast of new developments in mail handling and in mail room equipment by reading current literature on mail management, attending seminars and courses and by maintaining an awareness of any areas for improvement. Close contact should be maintained with postal officials so that the manager may be kept informed of postal developments that may require any operational change.

(2) The Post Office Department is prepared to advise departments and agencies in the acquisition of mail room equipment. Items of standard post office equipment may be made available at cost. Requests for such assistance should be made to the appropriate Postmaster.

(3) The mail operations should be periodically reviewed to determine if the use of additional or new equipment would effect savings in time or costs. The initial cost of such equipment may well be quickly recovered in the savings made on reduced labour costs. Where the mail room operation is large, consideration could be given to the installation of modern mechanized devices such as automatic letter openers, envelope sealers, pneumatic tubes, conveyor belt systems, collating aids, mail folders and inserters, etc. The initial cost must be weighed against the potential savings and a decision taken.

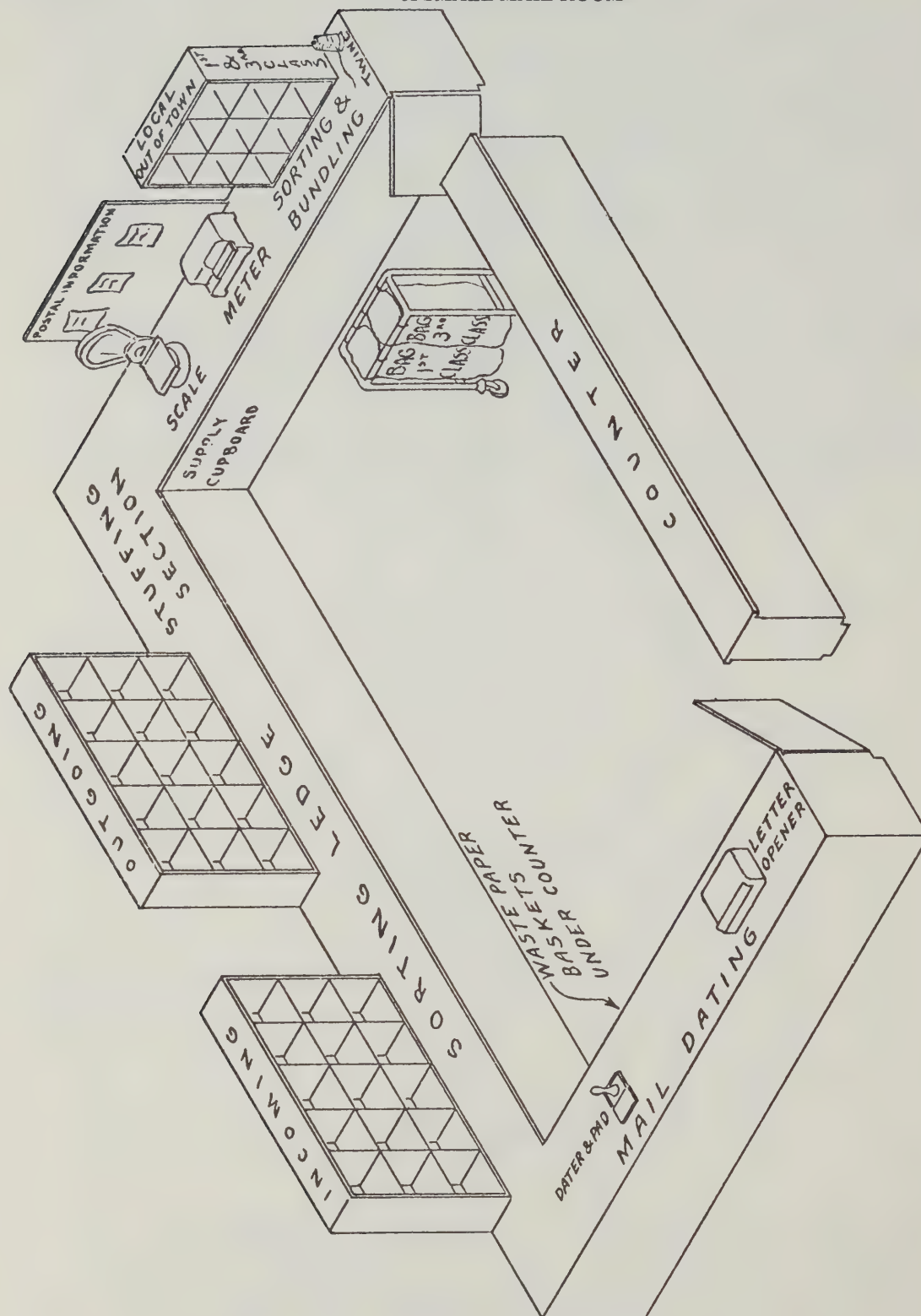
6. SUMMATION

(1) When considering the establishment or the revision of a mail room operation, all the management tools available should be used. Volume data, cost control information, flow charts, routing data, delivery aids, etc., should be examined in relation to the proposed new or revised installation. Provisional estimates as to service improvements and cost reductions should be made and submitted to management before any decisive steps are taken.

- (2) Some government departments have Methods or Systems units in their organization and full advantage should be taken of this resource in planning and layout of mail rooms. Those government departments which do not have such units may find the assistance of the Post Office Department Methods and Standards Officers helpful. These officers are trained and experienced in mail handling procedures and are available on an advisory basis to other departments and agencies for this purpose.
- (3) Other postal informational services are contained in the Canada Official Postal Guide, Part I. This manual is available from the Queen's Printer and outlines the general postal laws and regulations. It contains postage rates, fees for special services and conditions governing mail posted in Canada for delivery in Canada and other countries. Also included is information on government mail, the re-direction of mail, undeliverable mail, general prohibitions and financial services. An amendment service to this manual is provided for a yearly fee, and these amendments are obtained from the Queen's Printer.
- (4) In addition, charts showing postal rates for all types of service are available. Notwithstanding the bulk postage payment system, such charts are useful in computing the budgetary figures for mail room costs and in keeping mail room staff aware of the costs of the various types of service. Another information source is the Post Office Weekly Bulletin.
- (5) The sort racks, mail opening unit and packaging table as illustrated throughout this handbook are not necessarily standard items. They were evolved from experience and operational suitability.



PLATE IV

PICTOGRAPHIC OUTLINE OF
A SMALL MAIL ROOM

MODEL MAILING ROOM

Section 3 – Staff

1. GENERAL

The mail room provides an excellent training ground for new employees where they will be given an overall view of the total organization and the operations of a department or agency.

2. THE MAIL ROOM MANAGER

(1) It is essential that the person who is immediately responsible for the mail operation be a qualified manager. In larger departments the size of the operation will warrant its own manager; in smaller departments the function may be linked with other responsibilities within the Records Manager's sphere.

(2) The responsibilities of a Mail Room Manager will include all the mail handling operations and the organization and control of the messenger delivery services. To carry out these responsibilities, his qualifications should be such that he will have good staff management capabilities and he should be brought into departmental development and training programmes. While he will be assisted by lower grade supervisors in the performance of the actual mail room operations, such managerial responsibilities as the co-ordination of the various sections, the planning of the work flow, the devising, writing and issuing of instructions, and the introduction of procedural methods will rest with the manager. In addition, his ability to establish and conduct training programmes for his staff will determine to a great extent the continuous efficiency of the mail room service. The manager must entertain an overall knowledge of all operations, e.g. the processing priorities for departmental mail and the routing schemes for the various types of mail.

(3) The duties and responsibilities given in detail below represent a totality of a maximum requirement in a large department. Many other departments whose operations are smaller or more limited will only be required to assign the appropriate proportion to fit the circumstance. Under the general direction of the Records Manager:

- (a) perform the function of Mail Manager involving the management of the mail and messenger operations through the application of sound management principles in the:
 - (i) receiving, sorting opening, routing, controlling, and distributing of incoming mail,
 - (ii) collecting, sorting and distributing of internal mail, documents, files and other material throughout the working day, and
 - (iii) collecting, preparing, sorting, controlling and dispatching of outgoing mail;
- (b) prepare procedural instructions and continuously review and revise such procedures to meet changing or expanding service requirements;
- (c) establish and maintain scheduled mail delivery and collection services and regulate the use of departmental motor vehicles for the conveyance of mail matter, if these are used;
- (d) establish and maintain proper protective control over moneys and other negotiable valuables received in the mails by the use of accepted recording procedures as prescribed by the departmental Treasury Officers and the Auditor General representatives;
- (e) prepare and issue circular letters on all mail and messenger services and correct abuses to the efficiency of these services;
- (f) establish and maintain a distribution section or centre supported by such aids as circulation-distribution lists for intra-departmental material;
- (g) provide service for the preparation and dispatch of bulk items by rail, surface, air, express and freight for points in Canada and outside Canada and complete the required documentation;

- (h) review all mail room facilities and study the possibility of introducing new equipment and investigating its useful and economical application for mail room operations;
- (j) conduct periodic detailed postage prepayment surveys for all mail classes and thereby determine annual departmental postage expenditures and prepare an annual postage forecast report for financial officers;
- (k) train and evaluate the performance of mail room staff, counsel employees who present problems of work attitude and recommend disciplinary measures where necessary, maintain daily attendance, approve leave and plan holiday rosters;
- (l) interpret domestic and international postal regulations as they apply to government mails, maintain liaison with Post Office Department officials, and conduct postal inquiries with regard to irregularities and lost mail;
- (m) apply and enforce security procedures and practices in the preparation and dispatch of outgoing classified information for transmission through domestic and international postal channels, and report on security infractions revealed in the incoming mails;
- (n) interpret and apply the regulations of the Department of External Affairs in the receipt and dispatch of diplomatic mails, if applicable.

3. A MAIL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

The following set of duties for a position as described could be a requirement in a large department and the incumbent would be in the nature of an assistant to the manager. Under the direction of and responsible to the Mail Manager:

- (a) directs the sorting of incoming mail into two main primary categories:
 - (i) mail to be forwarded for direct delivery, and
 - (ii) mail to be opened and processed by the Records Office before delivery to action offices;
- (b) directs the mail opening clerks in mail opening, mail scanning and mail direction to the appropriate section of the Records Office for classification processing;
- (c) directs a check procedure for enclosures and ensures that such enclosures are properly secured to the covering correspondence without resulting damage;
- (d) directs the proper protective control procedures over incoming moneys and other negotiable valuables and duly record such items in a prescribed manner for delivery under signature;
- (e) directs the proper protective control procedures for processing incoming registered mail items, special delivery items and diplomatic mail, if applicable;
- (f) directs the re-direction of incoming mail actionable by other departments and agencies;
- (g) directs the receipt, sorting and preparation for dispatch of outgoing mail acceptable as mail matter within the classes described in the Canada Official Postal Guide;
- (h) directs the application of the proper mail classes on the covers of outgoing mail to ensure that correct postal handling is afforded to each class, and directs the sort of these classes into specific groupings as an aid to the Post Office Department;
- (j) directs the procedures for a bulk envelope mailing system;
- (k) directs the proper procedures for control of outgoing registered mail to the Post Office.

4. MAIL CLERKS

The duties and responsibilities for mail clerks are given in detail for both aspects — incoming mail and outgoing mail. The operations could be performed by the same employees in small departments but in a

larger department the functions may require a more distinct split for efficient performance. Under direction of the Mail Manager and/or the Mail Services Supervisor:

Incoming Mail and Mail Opening

- (a) sorts incoming mail into its two main primary categories:
 - (i) mail for direct delivery action,
 - (ii) mail for opening and forwarding to Records Office to be processed before delivery to actioning offices;
- (b) opens and analyses information content and directs to appropriate Records Office section;
- (c) checks for enclosures and ensures that these are properly secured to the covering correspondence;
- (d) records moneys and other negotiable valuables received in the mails and ensures delivery under a signature receipt procedure to Treasury Officers;
- (e) receives and checks incoming registered, special delivery and diplomatic mails, if applicable, and maintains a receipt delivery system for these items;
- (f) re-directs incoming items actionable by other departments;
- (g) re-examines envelopes after opening and extracting material to ensure that all contents are removed;

Outgoing Mail

- (a) receives, sorts and prepares for postal transmission all categories of outgoing mail acceptable asailable matter within the classes described in the Canada Official Postal Guide;
- (b) where a bulk mailing system is in use, checks loose mail to detect discrepancies in correspondence preparation, i.e. unsigned letters, misdirected mail and breaches of security, extracts such mail from the out-flow and returns to the originators for corrective action;
- (c) determines and applies proper mail categories on covers of outgoing mail to ensure and aid in proper postal handling through the Post Office Department;
- (d) sorts outgoing mail into provincial and other groupings as required by the Post Office Department;
- (e) records and allocates registration numbers to outgoing registered mail and obtains signatures from the Post Office Department;
- (f) completes necessary customs declaration forms for packages destined to addresses outside Canada;
- (g) completes invoices and waybills required when dispatching bulk items via surface or air freight;
- (h) prepares outgoing diplomatic mail in accordance with the regulations of the Department of External Affairs, if applicable;
- (j) calculates postage expenditures for each class of outgoing mail when required to establish departmental postage costs.

5. MESSENGER AND DISTRIBUTION SERVICES SUPERVISOR

While in large departments it will be found necessary to provide for the supervision of the internal distribution and messenger delivery services, this may not be required as a separate function in smaller organizations. Whether this operation does or does not require a distinct separation of duties and

responsibilities, they will still be performed during the course of the daily work. Under the direction of the Mail Manager:

- (a) supervise the sort-distribution system and the internal-external delivery system;
- (b) control the operations of the delivery messengers;
- (c) supervise the care and custody of delivery equipment;
- (d) maintain distribution lists for circulation of directives and instructions, etc.;
- (e) maintain the distribution identifications of offices to be serviced;
- (f) train new staff and maintain a spot-check verification to ensure efficient service.

6. A MESSENGER

Under the direction of the supervisor:

- (a) remove and check material for delivery from the distribution boxes;
- (b) place material in compartments of the delivery vehicles;
- (c) for internal delivery, transport material in manually operated trucks to addressee offices;
- (d) for external delivery load delivery boxes on motor vehicle;
- (e) deliver material at addressee points and pick up outgoing material;
- (f) maintain the allotted delivery schedules;
- (g) obtain receipts for registered and diplomatic mail and give signatures for material picked up on his route;
- (h) ensure safe handling of classified material while in transit;
- (j) operate hand delivery vehicles with due care.

7. STAFF SCHEDULING

(1) Mail room staff schedules must be so arranged that staff is available prior to and after normal working hours so that mail is ready for delivery early in the day and so that outgoing mail is collected and dispatched at the close of the day's work as well as throughout the day. This principle requires that the staff be scheduled on a staggered basis to cover all the hours necessary.

(2) A portion of the staff should report for duty at least one-half hour in advance of the normal working hours for the department. This permits available mail to be delivered and to be on hand when departmental staffs begin work. Early morning back-logs may thus be avoided and staffs may begin their daily operations without delay. In addition, the problem of being "starved" for work on the part of the other members of the mail room and the records office is resolved.

(3) Likewise, some staff members must remain for at least one-half hour after the normal close of business for the departmental offices. This ensures that all mail for the day is included in the final mail without the problem of overload and rush situations which lead to poor mail handling.

8. TRAINING

(1) Present day mail room operations are basically manual and involve a considerable number of junior employees. These staff members should be given training in the broad departmental goals and objectives in addition to their specific job training.

(2) These employees should follow a training programme which will not only afford them the opportunity to progress through the various stages of increasing responsibility within the mail room, but which will also prepare them to qualify for more responsible positions in the records office or other departmental branches.

(3) Training programmes should include teaching in depth in all phases of mail handling and messenger services. Such training should include instruction in the proper preparation, classification and sorting of mail. At the end of a complete training scheme, they should have an intensive knowledge of all operations and a thorough knowledge of the Post Office regulations which directly affect government mails.

(4) When planning and establishing training programmes, the Mail Room Manager should take advantage of the facilities afforded by the Post Office Department. Post Office officials are prepared to assist in an advisory capacity in setting up training plans for the processing of mail and in providing literature and other training aids.

9. JOB KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is provided as an example of a method whereby the mail manager can assess the progress of trainees or re-assess the operating knowledge of trained staff. Part "A" covers items dealing with incoming mail while Part "B" deals with outgoing mail.

PART "A"	INCOMING MAIL OPERATIONS	<u>True</u> Yes	<u>False</u> No
1.	The primary sort of incoming mail is to separate it into two categories: (a) mail to be opened? (b) mail for direct delivery?	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
2.	In sorting incoming mail, do you guess what is to be opened?	_____	_____
3.	When an item of mail is received in damaged condition the mail clerk shall: (a) disregard its condition? (b) ensure that all attachments are received and note on the outer wrapper that it was received in damaged condition?	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
4.	Is the purpose of the mail opening unit to: (a) open the mail? (b) open, extract and direct contents by subject to respective records office?	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
5.	When a valuable is found on opening mail, the clerk will: (a) secure this to the covering letter and forward to the records office? (b) take the valuable with supporting correspondence immediately to the Chief Treasury Officer? (c) place valuable in its original cover with the correspondence, record all necessary data? (d) place valuable in its original cover with the correspondence, note all necessary data thereon and pass to some other clerk?	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____ _____
6.	In obtaining signatures for valuables entered in a record system, it is imperative that legible signatures be given?	_____	_____

	<u>True</u> Yes	<u>False</u> No
7. Incoming Registered Mail can be receipted for by:		
(a) any employee of the department?	_____	_____
(b) any employee of the Mail Room?	_____	_____
8. Internal receipt records for incoming Registered Mail are retained for:		
(a) six months?	_____	_____
(b) two years?	_____	_____
9. Initials in lieu of complete signatures are acceptable in receipting registered mail?	_____	_____
10. In transmission between the Mail Room and offices, valuables together with the Cash Blotter will be carried in another container?	_____	_____
11. When correspondence is received stating that some type of valuable was enclosed but in fact was not received, the mail opening clerk will note the letter and envelope to this effect?	_____	_____
12. Should the clerk who is charged with the care and custody of valuables also sign such a letter and envelope as mentioned in question 11?	_____	_____
13. When time-stamping special items the stamp may be placed anywhere on the item?	_____	_____
14. In every instance where it is necessary for the Mail Room to sign for some incoming mail a record of its disposition will be maintained?	_____	_____

PART "B"**OUTGOING MAIL OPERATIONS**

1. What is the weight limit for the Post Office "All up service" as it applies to First Class Mail:		
(a) 4 ounces? (b) 8 ounces? (c) 1 lb.?	_____	_____
2. Can Fourth Class Mail be registered?	_____	_____
3. Can Third Class Mail be registered?	_____	_____
4. Is it permissible to send a parcel post package to the United Kingdom or the U.S.A. as special delivery?	_____	_____
5. Is there "Air Parcel Post" service to the U.S.A.?	_____	_____
6. The sealing flap of a registered letter can be sealed with cellulose or gummed paper tape?	_____	_____
7. When a piece of loose correspondence has not been clearly identified to a field office, the mail clerk shall:		
(a) determine by the text what field office is involved?	_____	_____
(b) extract the letter and bring to his supervisor?	_____	_____

	<u>True</u> Yes	<u>False</u> No
8. Customs declaration forms are required for parcel post packages addressed outside Canada?	_____	_____
9. The "Canada Official Postal Guide" is:		
(a) published by the Post Office Department?	_____	_____
(b) printed by the Post Office Department?	_____	_____
10. Should large amounts of registered mail items be brought to the attention of the supervisor?	_____	_____
11. When a piece of loose correspondence is received bearing a "Registered Mail" annotation, the mail clerk should:		
(a) process in the usual manner for ordinary mail?	_____	_____
(b) immediately extract the item and place with the registered mail unit?	_____	_____
12. When "Special Delivery Service" is requested, the mail clerk shall process without delay for that service?	_____	_____
13. No record need be made or kept for the cost of outgoing mail?	_____	_____
14. A registered serial numbering system is maintained in order to know the number of registered items mailed?	_____	_____

10. SECURITY

(1) General security as applied to mail rooms will vary between departments depending on the functions and policies of the individual organization. The extreme need would be where the physical security of the mail room requires that the area be under an electronic alarm system. Whether this extreme requirement is essential or not, each department should develop a security system for the mail room operations which will meet that department's standard.

(2) Unauthorized persons should not be given access and in particular such persons must not be allowed in a sensitive area such as the incoming registration and incoming valuables section. Where a department handles diplomatic mail the same principle applies.

(3) Classified items in the course of delivery by messengers must be protected at all times and not unduly exposed to the chance of pilferage or tampering. Where security classified material is handled in large volumes, special equipment that can be adequately secured should be used.

(4) Messengers on delivery routes must not leave delivery vehicles unattended for any period of time. Call stations should be so planned and arranged that a minimum of time is spent in offices in delivering and collecting mail.

(5) While classified mail is required to be identified as such on an inner covering envelope or wrapping, in some instances it may be received without such identification. This is a breach of security regulations and any instance must be brought to the attention of the manager who will report to the proper departmental officer. Every effort must be exercised to ensure that the security breach is not repeated.

(6) In general, incoming security classified material will adhere to the normal regulations. On occasion, a mail opening clerk will inadvertently open a classified item. If this happens, the envelope or wrapping must be resealed and the item processed through to the section of the Records Office where classified material is handled. This breach must be brought to the attention of the employee to avoid repetition of the error.

(7) For specific security regulations, the mail manager should know the departmental security regulations or, if these do not exist, then the operating authority is the publication "Security of Information in the Public Service of Canada, November, 1956".

11. CHECKLIST FOR A MAIL MANAGER

The mail manager may find that this check-list will reveal what has been omitted in organizing a departmental mail room or in a periodic review of the operations of an established mail room.

- (1) Is there a written plan for the future development of the mail room?
- (2) Has this plan been reviewed during the last six months?
- (3) Is there a departmental manual showing the duties, responsibilities, and detailed operating procedures for the mail room?
- (4) Is there a departmental manual showing the responsibilities of originating offices with respect to the mail function?
- (5) Is there an organization chart of the mail room and is it up-to-date?
- (6) Has each employee in the mail room been provided with a written outline of his duties?
- (7) Have all activities been co-ordinated where possible?
- (8) Have all controls been checked as to their effectiveness and their necessity within the last year? e.g. registered mail.
- (9) Have all procedures been reviewed in the last year?
- (10) Is there a work-flow chart of the mail room operations?
- (11) Has the possibility of new equipment been reviewed with supporting data accumulated?
- (12) Have staff been scheduled properly to ensure timely delivery to actioning offices?
- (13) Are steps taken to keep "PERSONAL" mail to a minimum?
- (14) Is time and date stamping limited to essential mail only?
- (15) Is there a system for the control receipt of valuables?
- (16) Is all mail delivered at the end of the day?
- (17) Is outgoing mail picked up progressively during the day?
- (18) Is such mail delivered to the Post Office progressively during the day?
- (19) Is a bulk envelope system used?
- (20) Is a group sort system used?

PART II

OPERATING THE MAIL ROOM

Section 1 – Incoming Mail

1. GENERAL

(1) Operating a mail room is not as simple as its basic components of receiving, delivering and sending would seem to imply. Even the best operated mail room calls for continuous vigilance whereby improvements may be adopted. Urgent correspondence or internal memoranda may get delayed on occasion because of a minor breakdown in one of the three areas of operation.

(2) Since the primary purpose of a mail room is to process mail as fast as possible, there should be a minimum of processing steps consistent with good mail handling practices and sometimes with proper security considerations, while costs must also be kept in mind. For example, in many cases first class mail will possibly arrive and be delivered as soon as, if not ahead of, registered or special delivery mail without the added expense of these two particular methods of transmission.

2. RECEIPT FROM POST OFFICE

In Part I the matter of scheduling the mail room staff so that some employees commence the day's operations ahead of the normal working hours was discussed. This commendable practice will be fruitless unless the motor vehicle collecting the mail from the Post Office begins its job at a time whereby the mail will be received in the mail room to match the starting time of the mail room advance staff. This principle applies in either case whether the mail is collected by a departmental vehicle or through a private mail delivery contract.

3. EMPTYING MAIL BAGS

On receipt of the mail from the Post Office and its conveyance from outside to the mail room, each mail bag should be emptied onto the counter-top portion of the sorting racks. The emptied mail bag should then be thoroughly examined to ensure that no mail item has been left inside the bag inadvertently. If the working counter-top area permits, more than one bag may be emptied at the same time but an excessive amount of material will only slow down the sorting operation. The mail bags which have been emptied and re-examined should then be folded and placed under the sorting rack counter-top as indicated at Plate V.

4. PRIMARY SORT

(1) As the mail is cleared progressively from the mail bags, a primary sort will normally be required:

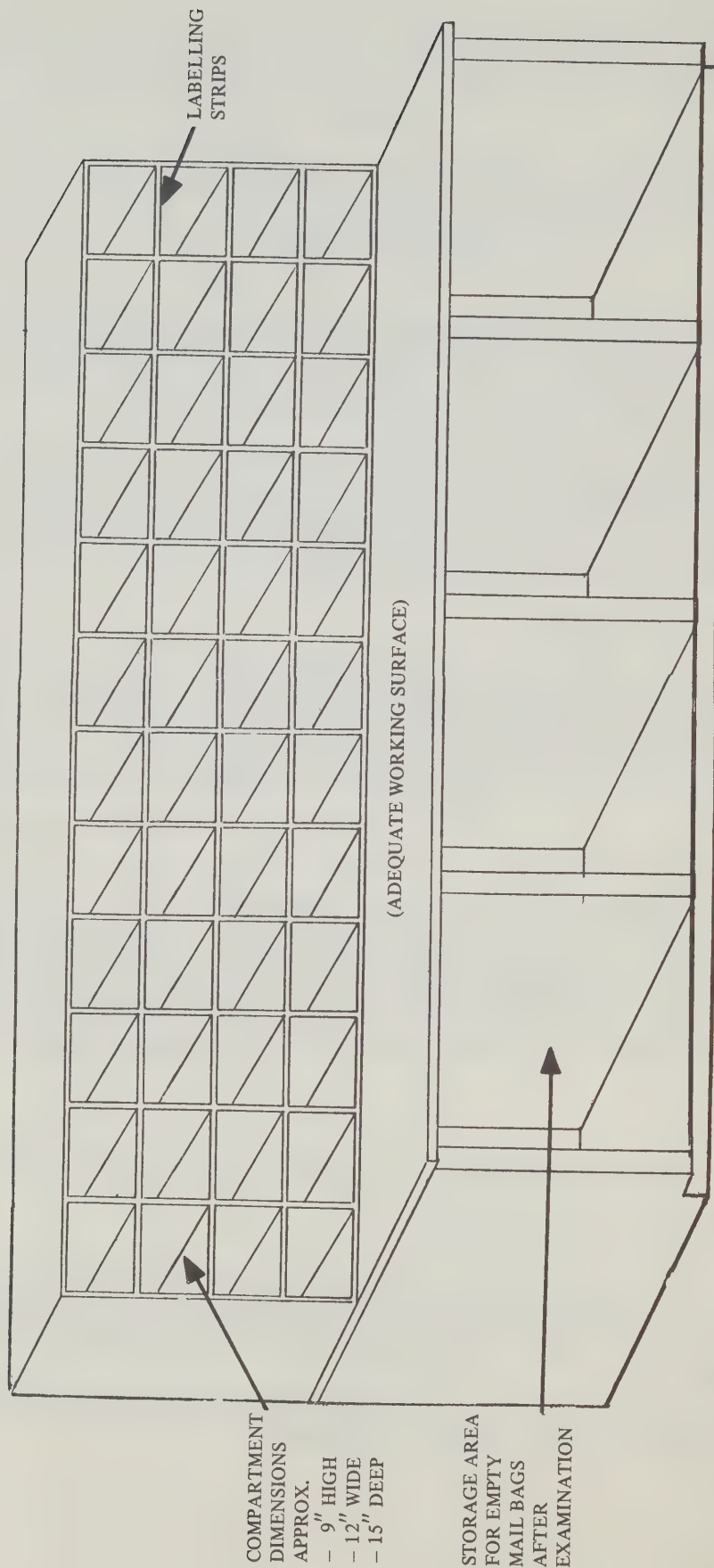
- (a) mail to be delivered unopened; and
- (b) mail to be opened before delivery.

(2) There may be various reasons why certain types of incoming mail should be delivered direct without opening. There will be different causes for this procedure dependent upon varying structures, functions or peculiar requirements of the particular department. Some of these considerations will include the fact that the mail is:

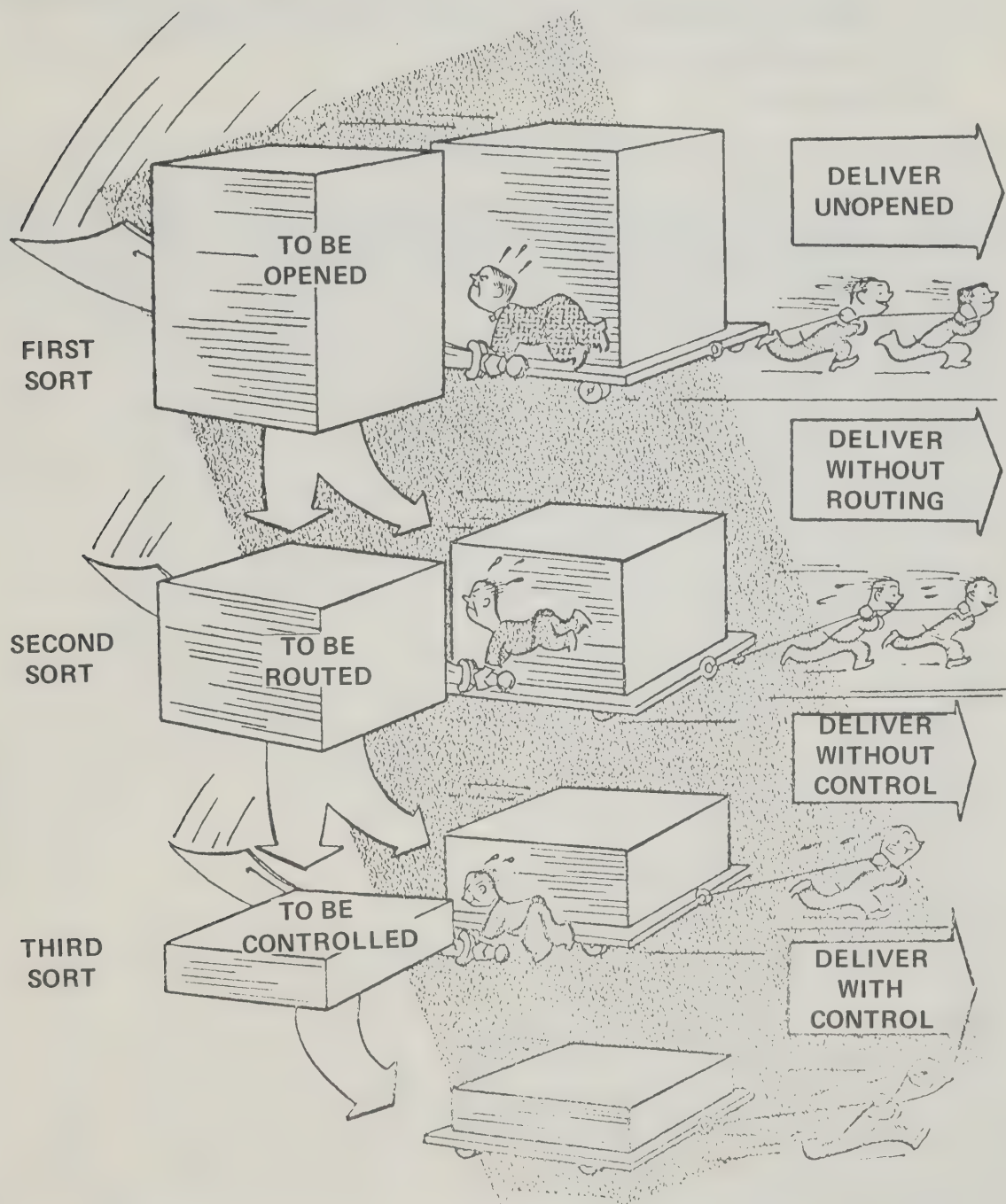
- (a) addressed to the Minister or the Minister's Office which is serviced by a special sub-records office where the mail is given further processing;

PLATE V

PRIMARY or INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL MAIL
SORTING RACK



SORTING THE MAIL



- (b) addressed to an office which is serviced by other specific sub-records offices on a branch or other basis where the mail will be opened and processed as required; this could include security classified matter as well;
- (c) received in error at the department;
- (d) in the form of parcels – normally these are delivered to the addressee offices unopened;
- (e) addressed in a specific manner for instant identification in the mail room and agreed upon between the office of such identification and the Records Manager that such material shall be delivered unopened based on peculiar requirements and speed of handling;
- (f) personally addressed to an individual; and
- (g) *personal* mail.

(3) With regard to personally addressed mail, there is a fine distinction between such mail and *personal* mail. In either event, both should be discouraged. Official mail should be addressed to the position and not the person because the sender of the communication is entitled to assume that it will be dealt with promptly by the proper person responsible for performing the appropriate function. On the other hand, he is not entitled to try to choose who will be the appropriate person to deal with it. This is no more than the old and tried business principle – “Address the firm – not individuals”.

5. PERSONAL MAIL

(1) There is a special problem concerning *personal* mail. In departments where there may be a constant rotation of staff posted to the headquarters offices, it is both practical and normal to permit the use of the departmental address for the receipt of personal mail for a period of time. However, with the support of senior management, this can be controlled by the use of a small slip which can be stapled to the envelope containing such advice as:

“The department discourages the receipt of personal mail. Official mail should be addressed to the position and not the person. Other arrangements should be made as soon as possible for the receipt of purely personal mail”.

(2) In any event, incoming mail clearly marked “PERSONAL” should not be opened but given a direct delivery sort.

6. PRIMARY SORT – JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

These job operating procedures are given as a typical description of the procedural steps involved in the primary sort of incoming mail:

Step 1 – Empty the mail bags onto the primary sort counter top of the sorting racks.

2 – Determine by a thorough examination that each mail bag is completely empty.

3 – Fold the empty mail bags and place in the appropriate storage space beneath the counter top.

4 – Extract the large envelopes from the tied bundles of small envelopes.

5 – Sort mail in prescribed categories as applicable to the particular department which may be divided into at least three normal separations:

(i) mail to be delivered direct to the indicated addressee, i.e. person or office,

(ii) mail to be delivered to the specific records office for opening and processing, and

(iii) mail to be routed through the mail opening station within the mail room for further processing.

- 6 — Take the envelopes identified as in category 5(iii) to the mail opening station.
- 7 — Repeat Steps 5 and 6 for the small bundled envelopes.
- 8 — Repeat Steps 1 to 3 for mail bags containing material other than envelopes, i.e. parcels, newspapers, periodicals, etc.
- 9 — Sort this material for direct delivery.

Plate VI illustrates the principles of sorting incoming mail and Plate VII provides a view of one primary sort operation in a large department.

A PRIMARY SORT STATION

PLATE VII



7. REGISTERED INCOMING MAIL

- (1) The importance of this type of mail and its handling procedures require special emphasis. Each mail room should institute a system to record and process the receipt of the registered mail. The size of the registered mail room unit and the procedures used will depend on the volume of registered items handled.
- (2) The registered mail unit should be the responsibility of one specific employee who has been assigned registration duties and is accountable for the efficient operation of the unit including each individual registered item. Dependent upon volume, these duties may account for all of this specific employee's working day but, if this is not the case, then the added responsibility of the receipt and handling of valuables may be added to round out one complete responsibility. As an alternative, other more routine duties may be assigned on the primary and emphatic understanding that the registered mail has priority.
- (3) The mail clerk must check each item against the "Registered Letter Bill" entries made by the Post Office Department to ensure that all are accounted for, and that only registered items for the department are accepted. If a shortage appears in the number of items received or there is any other discrepancy, such as a difference between the registered numbers on the bill and the numbers on the items received, the Post Office should be immediately informed so that corrective action can be taken at once or an inquiry started for cases which cannot be resolved at the immediate time of discovery of the discrepancy.
- (4) In general, the sort procedure is similar to that for ordinary incoming mail except that signatures are received for items as they are delivered to the various addressee offices. Receipt forms are completed for each address office listing all the registered items for that office. A sample form with its entries completed is shown at Plate VIII. Delivery to addressee offices will then be effected through the departmental mail room messenger service.
- (5) Valuables found contained in registered envelopes which require to be opened in the registered mail unit should be handled as outlined in paragraph 9 below. An entry is made on the incoming receipt bill that particulars of delivery will be found in the cash blotter.
- (6) Disposal records in the shape of receipted delivery forms must be retained in accordance with the General Records Disposal Schedules of the Government of Canada.

8. REGISTERED INCOMING MAIL – JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Step 1 – The authorized registered mail clerk receives the registered mail from the Post Office Department.
- 2 – The total number of items are checked against the total shown on the Registered Letter Bill.
- 3 – The registered numbers on the items are checked against the registered numbers listed on the registered Letter Bill. OR
- 4 – Where registered mail is received in locked or sealed bags, it is signed for by the authorized mail clerk as a bulk item.
- 5 – Then follow Steps 2 and 3 above after opening and emptying the bag(s).
- 6 – Any discrepancies in the number of items or in the registered numbers will be reported to the supervisor who will immediately take inquiry action with the Registration Division of the Post Office.
- 7 – The registered mail clerk signs the Post Office bill copy.
- 8 – Registered items which require to be opened are separated from the direct delivery material.
- 9 – Receipt delivery forms are filled out for each delivery point listing the items as in the sample completed form at Plate VIII.
- 10 – The registered items with their receipt forms are given to the mail room messenger service for delivery.

- 11 — The signed returned forms are brought back to the registered mail unit after delivery.
- 12 — The receipted forms are retained for one year as required by the General Records Disposal Schedules of the Government of Canada.

PLATE VIII

RECEIPT BILL		
RECEIVED FROM OR DELIVERED TO		DATE
Personnel. Division		Jan 2 1968.
ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN
Reg'd 123	Mr. John Doe	Montreal, P.Q.
" 456	Mr. T. Sign	Vancouver, B.C.
" 789	Mr. R. E. S. Later	Toronto, Ont.
Specimen		
DATE RECEIVED		RECEIVED BY:
2 Jan. 1968.		Mr. J. Doe.

1. This form is simple in design and can be economically printed.
2. It may be used by Mail Rooms for recording and obtaining signatures for registered and other by hand articles of mail.
3. Some departments in lieu of this form use bound or loose leaf type books. The risk here is that if the book or loose leaf binder became lost several earlier recordings would be lost whereas the use of the single sheet form such as above reduces the loss to one or two entries.

9. INCOMING VALUABLES

(1) As in the case of registered mail, the responsibility for the recording and handling of incoming valuables should be assigned to one particular staff member. In many departments, this duty could be included with the duties of the registered mail clerk. However, in some departments where large amounts and volume are received regularly, it may become a requirement to assign this operation to a specific employee other than the registered mail clerk.

(2) Incoming valuables include such instruments as:

- (a) cheques;
- (b) postal notes;
- (c) money orders;
- (d) bank drafts;
- (e) cash;
- (f) unused air, rail, etc. tickets;
- (g) etc.

The general rule concerning valuables made out as payable to the "Receiver General of Canada" is that they will be forwarded to the representative of the Comptroller of the Treasury.

(3) A record of receipt must be made and maintained for future reference and for the protection of the mail clerk handling these incoming valuables. This record of receipt should be done through a Cash Blotter system and it will have such entries as:

- (a) date of the entries made;
- (b) name and address of the remitter;
- (c) type of valuable and its number;
- (d) amount of the valuable;
- (e) date of covering letter;
- (f) reference number or subject note;
- (g) delivery office designation; and
- (h) delivery office signature of receipt on delivery.

(4) The valuables should then be securely attached to the related correspondence and taken with the Cash Blotter to the office concerned where a signature of receipt is obtained. By a method of counter-initialling, the delivery operation can be done by the established messenger service.

(5) In departments where the volume of valuables received is small, these items may be adequately handled through a system similar to that used for the receipt of registered mail items. When the specific receipt system is not in use, the document along with any remaining valuables which could not be delivered during the working day for that day should be kept under lock and key.

10. INCOMING VALUABLES – JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

These job operating procedures cover the care and custody of incoming valuables from the point where valuables are found on opening an envelope and continue throughout the remaining steps of the operation:

At Mail Opening Station

Step 1— When an envelope is opened which contains any valuables, hand over the valuables with its covering correspondence to the special clerk.

2 – This special mail clerk will enter the amount in the Cash Blotter immediately.

3 – The clerk who opened the envelope will initial this entry of amount immediately.

At the Cash Blotter Station (Note: This may be a combined Registered Mail operation station)

- Step 1 – Periodically throughout the day, and timed to coincide with the messenger service schedule, the special mail clerk will recheck the items received against the amount entries and then complete the remaining Cash Blotter entries. See paragraph 9(3) above for typical details.
- 2 – The special mail clerk will initial all the entries as one group before passing the material to the messenger.
 - 3 – The messenger assigned to make the delivery will counter-initial beside the initials of the special mail clerk.
 - 4 – The material and the Cash Blotter will be placed in a large envelope (or other suitable container) and addressed for delivery action.
 - 5 – Delivery will be made immediately thereafter by the messenger who obtains the payee's signature on delivery.
 - 6 – On return of the messenger to the mail room, the special mail clerk will check the Cash Blotter to ensure that all entries are properly signed so as to confirm delivery.
 - 7 – At close of work daily, any undelivered valuables and the Cash Blotter will be placed under lock and key by the special mail clerk.
 - 8 – Cash Blotter books, when completely filled, will be retained for five (5) years after the date of the last entry group.
 - 9 – Where a single sheet receipt bill system is being used, these receipts will be retained for the five (5) year period also.

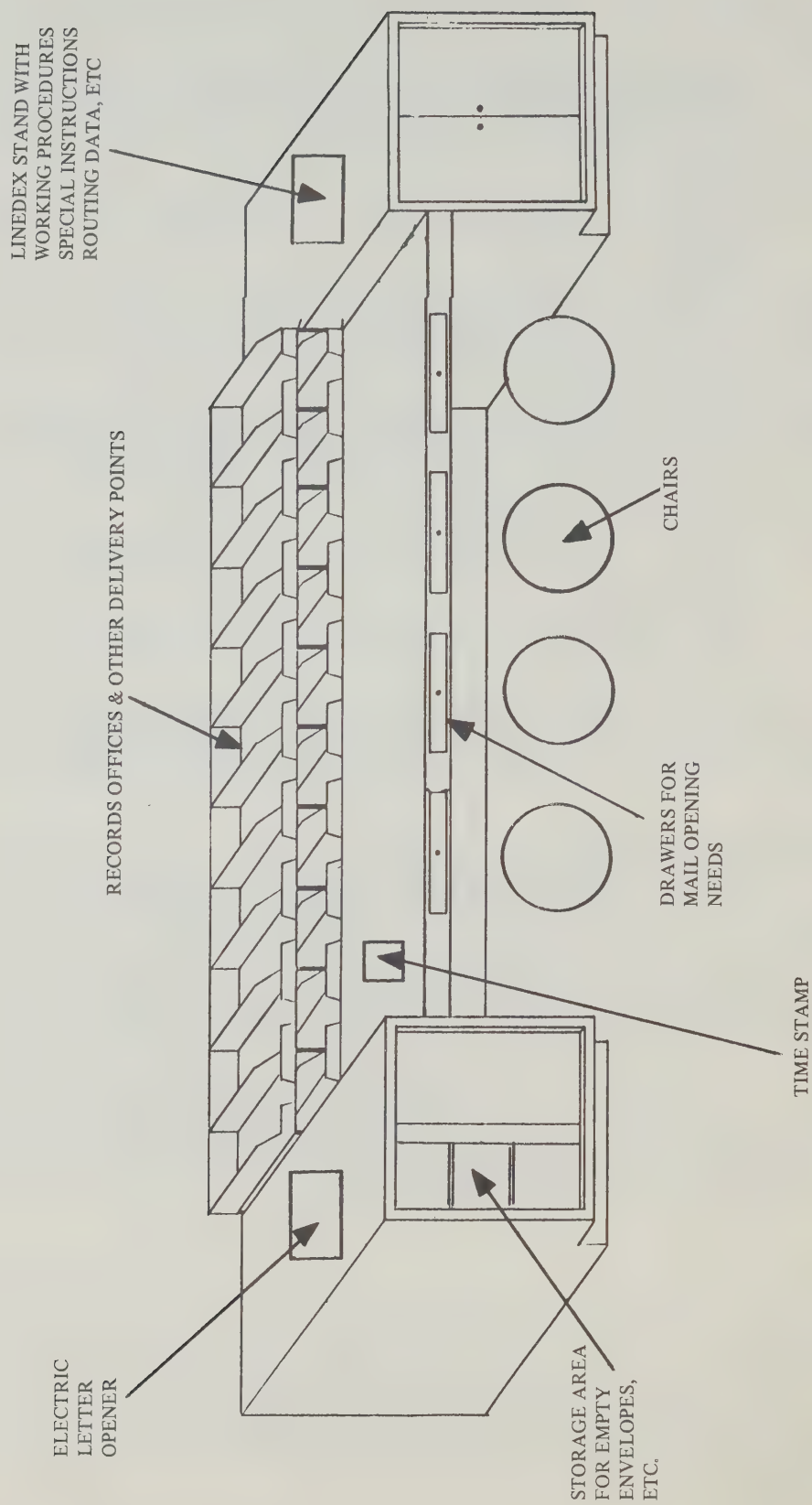
Any valuables which might have been received in unopened mail forwarded to a Records Office should be returned immediately to the mail room and handled in a similar manner. While it may seem that this system is too elaborate, it is designed to protect the employees handling valuables as well as the valuables themselves.

11. DIPLOMATIC MAIL (If applicable)

(1) The processing procedures for incoming diplomatic mail are essentially the same as for incoming registered mail. For general information, prior to the pick-up of diplomatic mail from the Department of External Affairs, all such mail (normally security classified material) is sent via "Diplomatic Bag" from Canadian overseas posts to the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. These diplomatic bags are opened in that department's mail room. Items addressed to a particular department are listed on External Affairs receipt bills and a signature is obtained on delivery to each department concerned.

(2) On receipt from the Department of External Affairs, each item shown on that department's receipt bill is re-entered on the receiving department's own receipt bill system. This procedure is the same as for incoming registered mail. In both cases the main consideration is a receipt system to ensure the proper control protection until the final delivery to the correct addressee.

PLATE IX

INCOMING MAIL OPENING
and
DISTRIBUTION UNIT

Section 2 – Mail Opening

1. GENERAL

(1) Mail, other than registered, diplomatic and special items, may be referred to as ordinary incoming mail. Such mail is opened after the primary sort has determined that this is a requirement, and the opening operation will be performed at the mail opening station or unit. (See Plate IX.)

(2) This phase of the incoming mail operations is important in that it serves as the feeder system which supplies the remaining undelivered material to the records offices for processing. Secondly, whether material does not require further processing can only be determined after the envelopes are opened at this unit. Any mis-direction at this point causes delay in ultimate delivery.

2. SIGNIFICANT POINTS

(1) A quick scanning procedure should be used to ensure that the material should be opened. All envelopes of a similar size should then be collated together.

(2) An electric letter opener should be used to open large volumes of envelopes and such openers are available for both small and large size envelopes. They will not mutilate the contents when care is exercised in their use.

(3) After the envelopes are opened, the contents are removed and the appropriate records office determined through scanning for such guides as:

- (a) a file number reference, or
- (b) a source indication, or
- (c) a departmental office designation, or
- (d) the subject content which will provide a guide line where all others may be absent.

(4) The correspondence must be screened for any mention of enclosures. If it refers to attachments which were supposed to accompany the letter but which are not enclosed, the original container should be rechecked thoroughly. A rubber stamp should be applied at a suitable place and initialled by the mail opening clerk when the recheck does not produce the attachment referred to—see Plate X. This stamp provides for this eventuality or other cases which constantly arise in a mail room.

PLATE X

RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE IN:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	DAMAGED CONDITION:
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPENED CONDITION:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WITHOUT ENCLOSURES:
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO CONTENTS:
MAIL CLERK'S INITIALS: <i>A.B.L.</i>	

(5) Enclosures which are other than typed or printed papers and which are usually originals such as:

- (a) birth, death, marriage and education certificates;
- (b) film negatives;
- (c) plans, drawings, etc.,

should not be attached to the covering correspondence by a wire staple. They should be placed back into the incoming container and the correspondence then stapled to this container so that the staple will not pass through the attachment. Special care should be taken for enclosures because they may not be the property of the department or the government but the private property of an individual who has the right to expect its return, if this is applicable, in good condition.

(6) Correspondence from private citizens requesting information should be screened with care to ascertain that a return address is on the letter. When there is no address shown, then the covering envelope should be attached to the correspondence.

(7) The contents of envelopes or small packets which are not subject to Records Office procedures should be forwarded direct to the applicable office. Such material will include:

- (a) vouchers;
- (b) receipts;
- (c) returns; and, normally,
- (d) other matter not accompanied by a letter.

(8) Security classified mail is identified on the inner envelope and such mail should be forwarded unopened to the records office for the required processing. Occasionally, classified mail is received and not so indicated. These cases are a breach of security and must be brought to the attention of the supervisor who will take the required action to report the incident.

(9) After all envelopes, etc. have been opened and sorted at the mail opening unit either for the records office or the actioning office, all mail is then collected and delivered by the messenger service on its scheduled route times.

3. ROUTING OF MAIL OPENED

(1) The routing of opened mail has already been covered in the preceding paragraph but this point is covered here in summary form. Mail which is not delivered at the primary sort station is passed to the Mail Opening Unit. It is opened either by hand or by a mechanical letter opener.

(2) On opening, it is determined that the mail should be:

- (a) delivered direct because reference to files is not a requirement; or
- (b) delivered to the Records Office for subject classification and/or file processing.

(3) Mail which is to be forwarded without reference to the Records Office is immediately sorted to the mail opening trays designated for that purpose, while the other mail for the Records Office is sorted to other mail opening trays so identified. (See Plate IX.)

4. FOREIGN LANGUAGE MAIL

Incoming letters in a language other than the two official languages of English and French should not be directed for delivery until they have been translated. Where there is no capacity of handling foreign language translations, documents may be referred to:

Foreign Languages Division,
Translation Bureau,
Secretary of State Department,
Ottawa.

5. MIS-DIRECTED MAIL

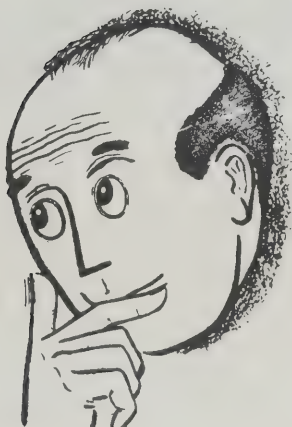
Frequently correspondence is received addressed to a government department requesting information or services which are in fact provided by some other department. Rather than returning the letter to the sender, the letter should be re-directed to the appropriate department which can deal with it, and the sender advised of this action. This could be done by the use of a suitably pre-printed post-card.

6. OPENED ENVELOPES

Mail opening clerks should ensure that all envelopes which have been opened are carefully examined during the process. This is to be certain that all material has been extracted. Opened envelopes should be retained for a short period only in case some reference is required. After retaining them for 24 or 48 hours they should be disposed of except for large envelopes which could be re-used inside the department *by crossing off the original addresses*.

PLATE XI

MAIL OPENING



The routing puzzle — who should handle this ??????????

7. TIME STAMPING

(1) Indiscriminate time stamping of incoming mail is unnecessary. Time stamping in the past was used as a check system, whereby the volume processed could be easily ascertained, or as a means to show when a document had been received and opened in the mail room. Adequate supervision and periodic spot-counts will provide this information, when required, at less cost.

(2) However, if the time of receipt has some legal significance, as in the case of contracts and tenders, care should be taken to ensure that only such mail is time stamped.

PLATE XII

MAIL OPENING STATION IN A LARGE DEPARTMENT



8. MAIL OPENING AIDS

The mail opening operation should be equipped, where volume dictates, with the following devices to assist the staff in the performance of their duties:

- (a) table sort bins or racks;
- (b) electric letter opener for both small and large envelopes;
- (c) electric stapler; and
- (d) assorted rubber stamps either singly or in a multiple style as shown at Plate X.

PLATE XIII

ILLUSTRATION OF AN ELECTRIC MAIL OPENER

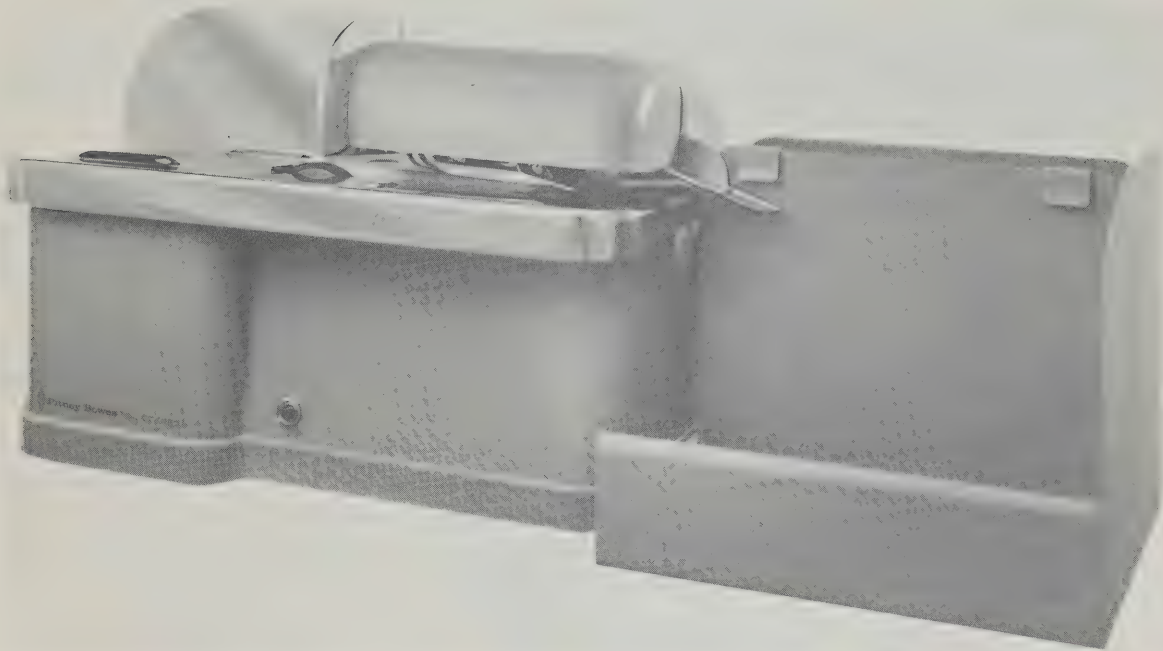


Photo courtesy of Pitney – Bowes of Canada Limited

9. MAIL OPENING – JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Step 1 – Check-scan addresses before opening.
- 2 – Collate envelopes into uniform sizes.
- 3 – Pass groups of uniform size envelopes through the electric letter opener or open by hand (e.g. if no mechanical opener or if bulky items).
- 4 – Extract contents from envelopes at the mail opening station individually.
- 5 – Identify, where required, that there is a return address.
- 6 – Determine whether or not there is an enclosure.
- 7 – If so, secure enclosure to the correspondence or replace in the original container and secure this to the correspondence.
- 8 – If there is no enclosure but there should be, apply appropriate stamp with this information and initial.
- 9 – Repair any damaged mail received by suitable tape and apply appropriate stamp with this information and initial.
- 10 – Process any valuables enclosed as detailed at Section 1, paragraph 9.
- 11 – Scan material to determine whether it should be sent to the Records Office for processing or whether it may be delivered direct.
- 12 – Place material opened into respective sort rack trays at the front of mail opening station unit.

Any bulky envelopes should be opened by hand to prevent damage to the contents and to the electric letter opener, if one is in use. The above procedures apply equally within a Records Office for mail received unopened from the mail room.

Section 3 – Messenger Services

1. PURPOSE

(1) Since the messenger services are a vital segment in the total procedures designed to place incoming mail on an action desk as fast as possible, the delivery aspect of mail should be reviewed periodically with the intent of improving deliveries and preventing delays.

(2) The mail manager must know his department's requirements for frequency of service. He must determine the number and location of the delivery points or "call stations", the flow pattern for the routes, the volume handled, work priorities, the demand for special service and other relevant information. Mail must be delivered and collected on set schedules and defined routes so that the service will not interfere with other office work nor cause delays in handling.

(3) On the other hand, in TB529343 of April 1, 1958, dealing with the matter of registered mail, the Treasury Board also commented upon wastage arising from the abuse of messenger services. An extract reads:

"... departments also might examine their present practices on the use of messengers for delivery of letters and other documents. Certainly our experience in the Treasury Board is that many documents are delivered to this office which just as easily could have been dispatched through ordinary Post Office channels. As you will appreciate, delivery by hand of documents not of an urgent or secret nature results in a waste of manpower and unnecessary expenditures."

2. PRINCIPLES OF A MESSENGER SERVICE

(1) A delivery point or "call station" is a clearly designated area for the delivery and pick up of mail, documents and files. Each call station should have separate marked receptacles for the "IN" and "OUT" material. The call station for each office should be near the entrance to that office.

(2) Thereby, messengers will be able to service call stations quickly and efficiently with a minimum of delay in each office. They must not be expected to undertake added special errands for these offices.

(3) The delivery routes should be planned and laid out in as direct a route as possible without the need to retrace. Scheduled times of delivery for each call station should be established and the service must conform to the set times. Proper scheduling and routing will avoid the need for any special demands on an individual basis for messenger service.

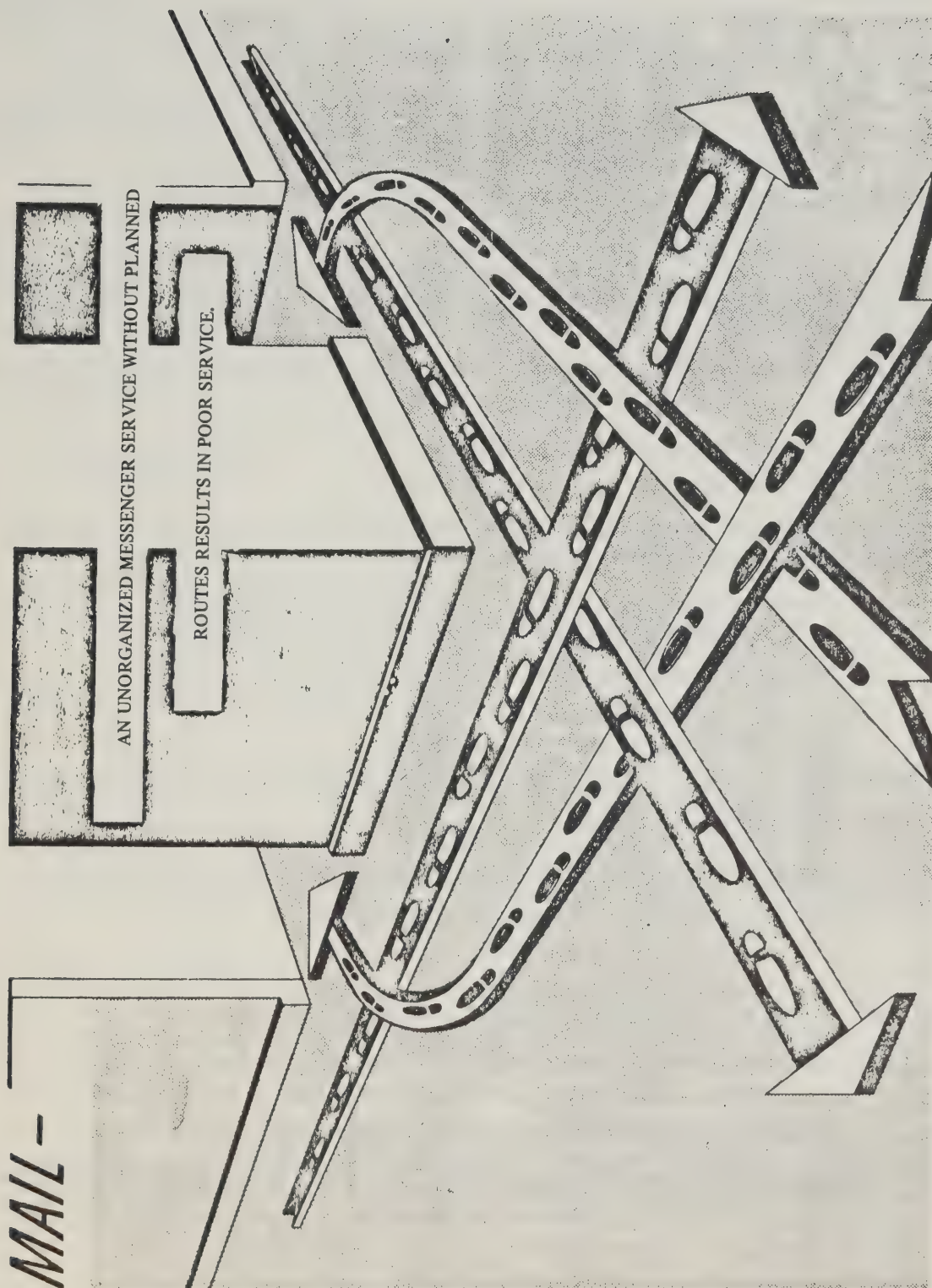
(4) A list of call stations with their call times should be printed and posted for the information of all concerned. However, the messengers should be given some responsibility and authority to make adjustments of a temporary nature when this becomes an obvious requirement due to some special circumstance.

(5) Where material for a call station already serviced on the route is received at a later station, this should be carried back to the mail room for delivery on the next scheduled trip. Backtracking should be avoided.

(6) Several offices may be conveniently grouped into one single call station. This will prevent an unnecessary number of call stations within a small area.

(7) Where volume warrants, the messenger service should be equipped with a suitable type of mail cart. It should be provided with adequate facilities to handle the volume of mail encountered. For security material locked containers may be required.

PLATE XIV



(8) As part of their routine duties messengers should be trained to check each compartment of their delivery cart between each scheduled trip to ensure that no items have been overlooked. This verification check system may also be a requirement for large volume deliveries. In this way, the material is checked as it is withdrawn from the sort racks to verify that the sort has been correctly performed in the first instance. Errors in sorting should be brought to the attention of the supervisor.

(9) The entire messenger system should be regularly reviewed to try to improve the service and eliminate any noted problems. Changes in the locations or changes in the organization of various offices will require changes in the route schedule and the location of the call stations.

3. MESSENGERS DELIVERY OF REGISTERED AND OTHER SPECIAL MAIL

(1) Registered, diplomatic or other mail requiring a receipt signature on delivery becomes an added responsibility while the material is in the messenger's custody during delivery. Therefore, the protection of such material becomes of personal importance until he is released from this responsibility by obtaining the necessary signatures.

(2) Under no circumstances should material requiring a receipt be left at a call station unless it has been signed for.

4. MESSENGERS JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

Step 1 – Remove material in the route sequence from the boxes or bins of the sorting racks.

2 – Scan-check the material for correct sort by call station.

3 – Report any discrepancies noted to the supervisor.

4 – Place material into proper identified compartments of the delivery vehicle.

5 – Maintain the same delivery call station sequence for the complete route.

6 – Maintain the same delivery time schedule for the complete route.

7 – Obtain any registered, diplomatic or other signature material.

8 – Check item entries against articles for this special mail.

9 – Proceed to first call station, deliver material so addressed, obtain signature as required for special material.

10 – Pick up outgoing material at that call station.

11 – Sort any material addressed to subsequent call stations en route into proper compartments.

12 – Maintain a segregation of the other collected material such as:

(a) outgoing mail for the Post Office;

(b) material for call stations other than subsequently en route;

(c) material for return to Records Office, i.e. files, papers.

13 – Proceed to all succeeding call stations and perform similar operations.

14 – Return to mail room after all call stations have been serviced.

15 – Unload the collected material for disposal action as indicated at Step 12.

NOTE: A call must be made at every call station even if there is no material for delivery to that call station for that scheduled trip.

Section 4 – Outgoing Mail

1. GENERAL

(1) Under the bulk payment system outgoing mail from a department is transmitted in pre-printed envelopes. At the top right hand corner there is an official printed mailing impression. This same pre-printed impression is applied to parcel stickers for transmission of parcels and bulky material unsuitable for the normal envelope sizes.

(2) In conjunction with the established messenger services, outgoing mail will be collected throughout the working day and taken to the mail room for preparation and dispatch. Such mail should be processed as it is received and not left to later in the day. This method of immediate processing eases the problem of late day rush periods and inevitable overload situations.

(3) Mail so processed should be cleared to the Post Office several times during the day. Normally government departments pick up incoming mail from the Post Office a number of times each day and trips for this purpose should also carry all outgoing mail available to the Post Office. This is particularly true where first class items must meet Post Office dispatch schedules and/or where printed matter is being mailed in large volumes. Large volumes of printed matter should be transported to the Post Office in the morning hours when off-peak periods occur at the Post Office.

2. DISPATCH SCHEDULES

(1) Mail dispatch schedules at the Post Office are arranged so as to take advantage of transportation facilities. Therefore, the mail manager must be aware of dispatch schedules and plan his mail clearances to take full advantage of the available services.

(2) Since dispatch times to distant points vary according to the transportation arrangements, schedules of Post Office dispatches should be obtained and kept posted in the mail room. These may even be posted in offices frequently dispatching large volumes so that their mail for distant points can be prepared in time to connect with the most advantageous transportation services.

(3) Messenger schedules within the department should make the final collection of outgoing mail at or near the official closing time of the department's daily business. This will ensure the inclusion of all mail for that day's work. Similarly, mail rooms must operate for a sufficient time after the official closing time of the other departmental offices as already discussed under "Organizing the Mail Room".

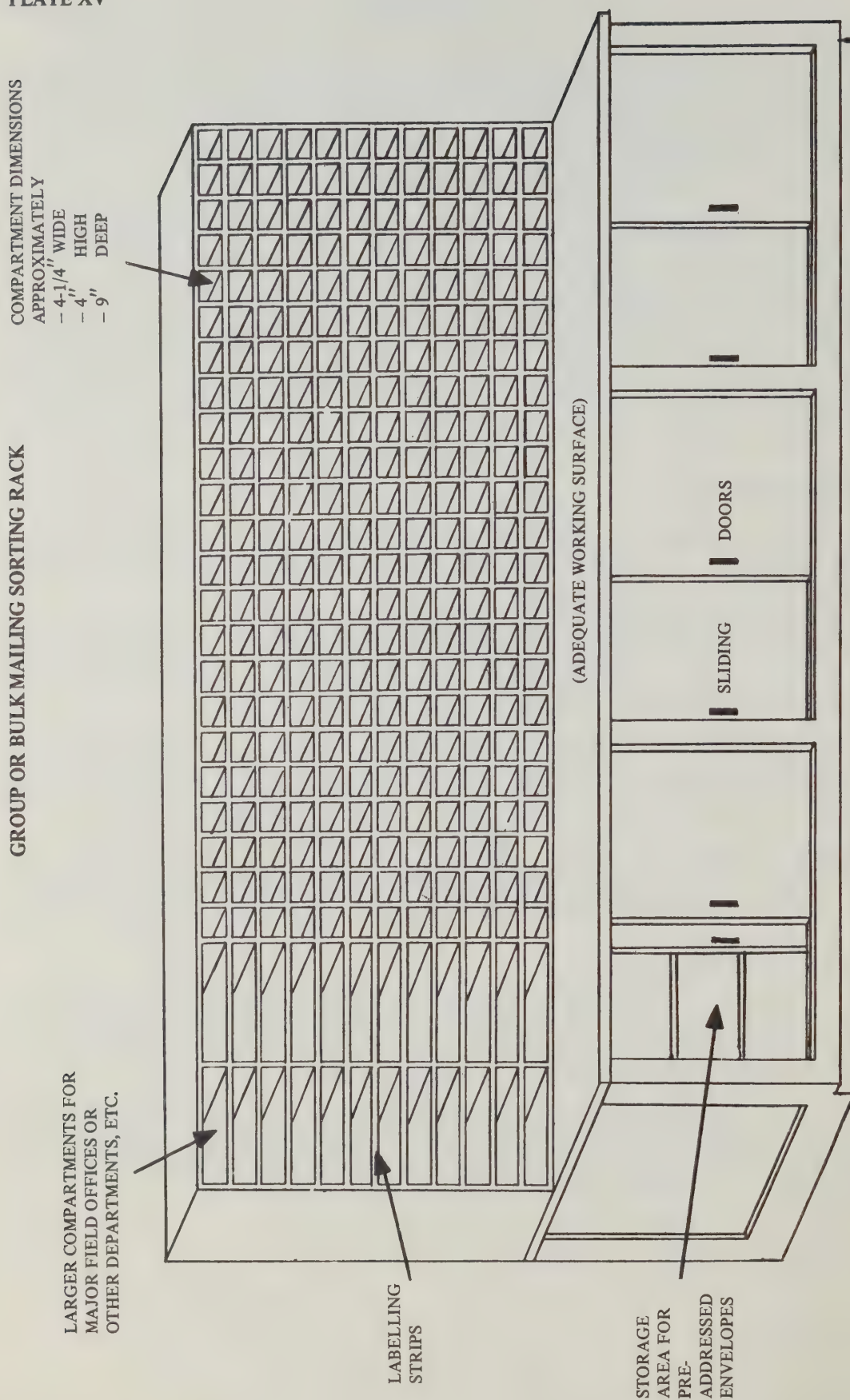
(4) There is an excellent slogan "Mail early and often". If this is followed, backlogs will be prevented in the mail room, the mail will be cleared quickly and the speed of transmission will be increased while the task of the Post Office Department will be relieved by a better distribution of mail throughout the day.

3. BULK ENVELOPE MAILING

(1) The "Mail early and often" precept should be applied even to a system of bulk envelope mailing. The system requires that large envelopes be pre-addressed to departmental field offices and kept in stock in suitable quantities usually in the sort racks or else immediately adjacent to the sort rack where the mail operations to which they refer are done.

(2) The mail for the field offices concerned is sorted into the relevant separations on a continuous basis until dispatch time. All the mail for such offices is then inserted into one large envelope for each office. Worthwhile annual savings in the cost of envelopes, letter preparation and the mail handling, both at the dispatching and the receiving office, will be realized by this system.

PLATE XV



These racks can be assembled in sections, with a view to reducing or enlarging their capacity. They can also be arranged so that the large separations shown at the left can be placed in the centre of the complete unit.

4. SORTING OUTGOING MAIL – GENERAL

- (1) Where there is a large volume of mail a sorting rack should be used. Plate XV shows one type of rack.
- (2) Improper classification of mail by the departmental mail room can be costly to the department and to the Post Office. If quantities of routine printed matter are needlessly mailed as First Class items, then unnecessary additional costs result. Each department should ensure that first class mail service is not requested for both printed matter and parcel post items where such need is not established. The originating offices can assist by indicating the class of mail service required on its mailings.
- (3) While the staff of the mail room has the responsibility of preparing and sorting mail, it can reduce these needless costs by regulating any abuse of mailing classes. On receiving such advice, the originating offices can assist by adhering to proper mailing classes.
- (4) When mail is prepared for dispatch, the various classes can be clearly and distinctly marked on the material through the use of large rubber stamps. A few examples of these markings are shown here:

FIRST CLASS	
AIR MAIL	AIR MAIL
PRINTED MATTER ONLY	PRINTED MATTER ONLY
PARCEL POST	AIR
	PARCEL POST

5. SORTING FIRST CLASS MAIL

- (1) In sorting outgoing mail, first class matter should receive priority of processing and be dispatched as soon as possible to the Post Office. Speed of handling and delivery will be increased when departmental mail rooms pre-sort by definite groupings which will reduce the need for a second and complete re-handling at the Post Office itself.
- (2) The mail may be sorted by City or Town, by Province or State. If there is not sufficient mail to make up "straights" or direct packages as indicated, then the bundles should be labelled "Canada" or "U.S.A." or other country.
 - (a) Local Delivery,
 - (b) Canadian City or Town,
 - (c) Province,
 - (d) Canada,
 - (e) State,
 - (f) U.S.A.,
 - (g) Other Countries,
 - (h) Air Mail Items.

(3) Whatever group sort is made, the mail items should be tied up into suitable bundles of manageable size. When this is done, it is necessary to have the bundles tied securely to prevent breakage and subsequent scattering of the envelopes in the mail bags, thus causing a delay at the Post Office.

(4) For small quantities, a paper slip could be inserted under the twine binding of the bundles to indicate the specific separation made. For large volumes, however, separate mail bags may be separately tagged in a similar manner with the appropriate identification.

(5) This procedure of labelling bundles or mail bags will assist the Post Office to a degree where earlier delivery at the several destinations will be possible.

6. **SORTING THIRD CLASS MAIL**

(1) Sometimes it is a requirement to prepare printed matter in large volumes for which the sorting facilities may not be adequate. Departments mailing this class in volume should arrange addressograph plates or addressing machines so that the mail is addressed in sequence to destinations concerned. After addressing, the mail is easily segregated as it comes off the addressing machines. This system of sorting is comparatively simple and postal officials may be able to assist in setting it up on request.

(2) When it is tied up into bundles, printed matter may result in bulky, awkward items which must be very securely tied to prevent the bundles from breaking open.

(3) The volume of printed matter may justify the use of separate mail bags. These bags should also be made up for provinces, etc. as in the case of first class mail. The endorsement "Printed Matter" would be the only additional requirement.

(4) Such mail bags should not be overloaded. The maximum weight which is acceptable in the postal service is 60 pounds. Care must be taken that no first class mail is put into these bags inadvertently. This could cause a delay to that mail because of the lower priority handling given to printed matter.

7. **SORTING PARCEL POST**

(1) In some mail rooms it may be a requirement to prepare parcels for the post. If this is the case, a preparation counter as illustrated at Plate XVI will prove to be eminently suitable for this purpose as well as for any other preparatory needs.

(2) Again, parcel post items should be sent to the Post Office separate from the other classes of mail. Parcels should be sorted directly into pre-hung mail bags as received. Also direct parcel post bags should be made up where volume warrants, and labelled with the endorsement "Parcel Post". As in the case of printed matter, such mail bags should not be more than 60 pounds in weight.

8. **AIR MAIL**

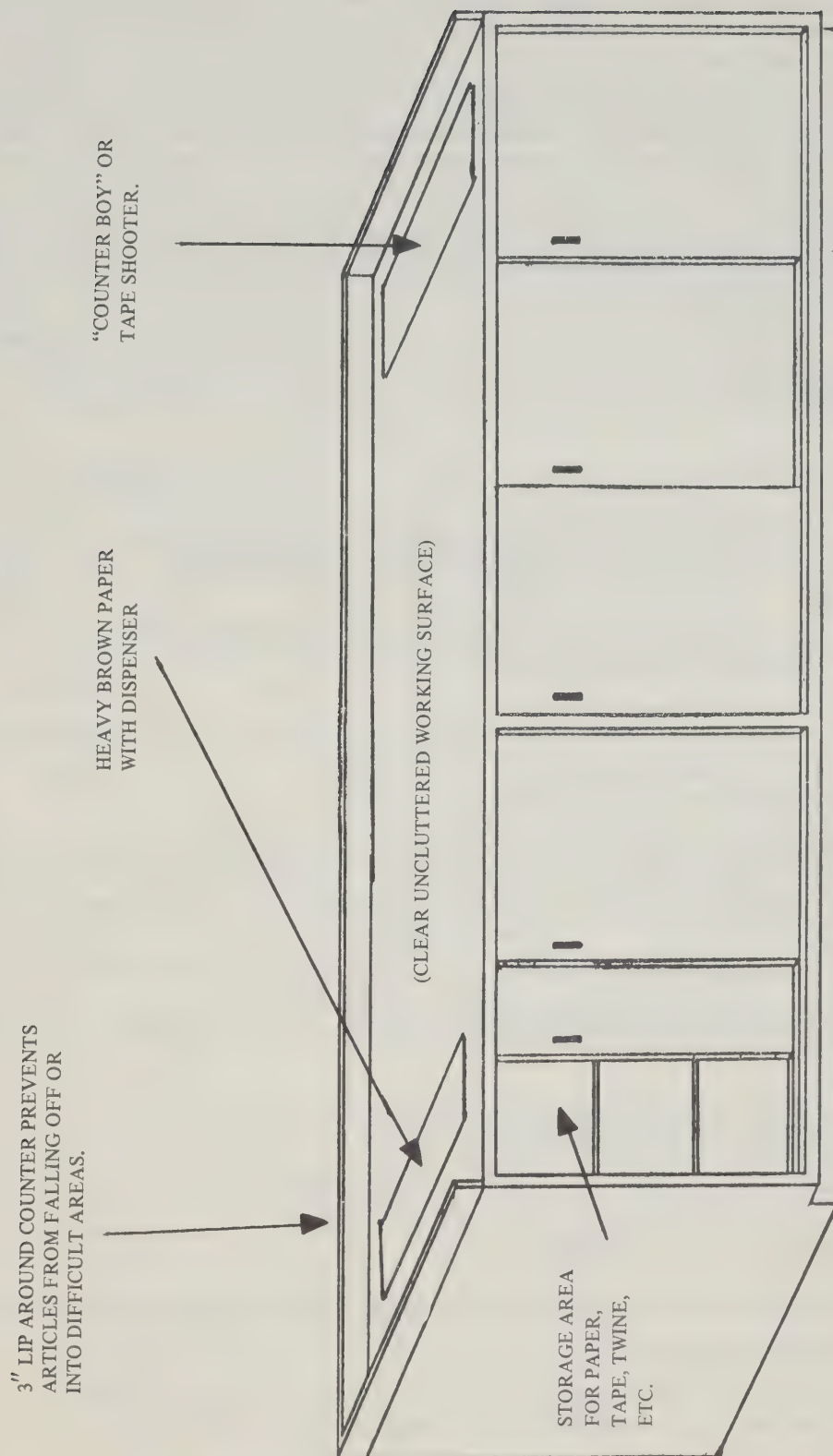
(1) All first class mail items up to 8 ounces in weight are transported by air service within Canada, where such air service will expedite the transmission of the mail. First class items weighing more than the 8 ounce limit must be endorsed "AIR MAIL" in order to receive air mail service.

(2) For other countries, all items of first class mail for which air transmission is required must bear this same endorsement "AIR MAIL".

(3) Parcel post packets may also be sent via air transportation means in Canada and also to some other countries. This service is called "AIR PARCEL POST" and the items must bear this indication.

PLATE XVI

MAIL STUFFING OR PACKAGING COUNTER



9. REGISTERED MAIL OUTGOING

(1) Although the bulk postage payment arrangement also applies to this type of mail, this service should be used only where it is an actual definite need because the registration charges form part of the postal budget of each department.

(2) Registration is a system whereby a receipt is given by the Post Office for an article at the time of posting, a record kept while the item is in post, and a receipt obtained by the Post Office upon its delivery. This system is used to ensure special security for items of specific importance or value while being transmitted through the mails.

(3) There are various methods of handling outgoing registered mail but these vary only in the details of procedure. The essential point is that this type of mail be controlled by a series of delivery signatures as it passes from hand to hand.

(4) In some departments with a large volume, the allocation of the registered numbers is decentralized to the dispatching, i.e., the preparing, offices. In other departments, the articles are assigned registration numbers by the mail room.

PLATE XVII

Date of 1 February 1968	<h1 style="margin: 0;">REGISTERED MAIL</h1>	Date 1 February 1968
Despatch	From <u>Mail Room</u> to <u>G. P. O.</u>	Received
	AT A.M. P.M.	

DESPATCH No. ON REG'D ARTICLE	TO WHOM ADDRESSED	TOTAL No. MAILED	PLACE
123	Regional Personnel Office	✓	Halifax, N.S.
124	Department of	✓	Ottawa, Ont.
125	Mr. John Doe	✓	Vancouver, B.C.
126	Alfred Cleaners Co.	✓	Toronto, Ont.

NOTE: Registered mail bills are prepared in triplicate:

No. 1 copy is returned to the department signed by the Post Office.

2 copy is retained by the Post Office.

3 copy remains in the Registered Letter Book, is signed by the departmental registered mail clerk and returned to originator.

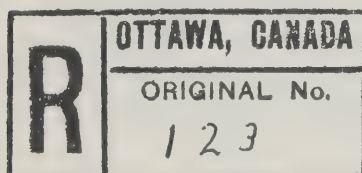
Received in good condition.....4.....Articles

Signature.....I Received.....Clerk in Charge

(5) In the first instance, the entries are made by the preparing office in triplicate by the use of the "Registered Letter Book No. 1", Canadian Government Supply Catalogue of Printing-Office-School Supplies form number 7530-21-561-0400. In the second instance, the same form is used and again the entries are made in triplicate. In both cases, the regular messenger service picks up the outgoing registered mail along with the Registered Letter Books, and brings all the material to the mail room.

(6) Where the articles have been assigned a registered number by the preparing office, the registered mail clerk removes the two top copies of the form from the Registered Letter Book and signs the third copy which remains in the book. Where the articles have not been assigned a registered number by the dispatching office, the registered mail clerk acknowledges receipt both by inserting the registration numbers assigned by him to the articles and by signing the third copy of the form in the Registered Letter Book. In both instances, the Registered Letter Book is returned to the respective offices on the next regular scheduled trip by the messenger service. As an example, Plate XVII illustrates a Registered Letter Book form in completed detail:

(7) An impression is made by a rubber stamp on the registered items in the lower left hand corner and the relevant register numbers are entered in ink as illustrated below:



(8) The two top copies of the forms removed from the Registered Letter Book are tied to the registered articles and forwarded to the Post Office. The Post Office acknowledges receipt of the registered articles by signing the original copy of the form and returning this to the dispatching mail room. A register number control sheet may be required as an interim measure.

(9) In departments where the dispatching office does not retain concrete evidence of the dispatch of registered articles, the operation may be completely controlled at the mail room point. In such cases, the Post Office form 33-86-019, Certificate of Post Office Registration, is used also in triplicate. Plate XVIII illustrates this form.

(10) The registered articles are securely tied with two copies of the Certificate of Post Office Registration included on top of each bundle. The third copy is retained in the mail room and serves as an interim record until one of the two copies sent to the Post Office with the registers is returned suitably signed. When the receipted form is received, the interim copy should be destroyed and the signed copy retained. Receipted forms of both of the two types discussed above should be retained one year in accordance with the General Records Disposal Schedules of the Government of Canada.

10. REGISTERED MAIL OUTGOING — JOB OPERATING PROCEDURES

Step 1 — Receive registered items with Registered Letter Book from offices through messenger service.

2 — Check items entered in the book to verify the number of items and the registered numbers assigned, where this is done by the originating office. OR

POSTES CANADA POST

PLATE XVIII

POST OFFICE REGISTRATION RECEIPT — RÉCÉPISSÉ DE RECOMMANDATION POSTALE

(THIS RECEIPT IS NECESSARY IF ENQUIRY IS DESIRED — À PRODUIRE EN CAS DE RÉCLAMATION)

Stamp of Firm

1 February

1968

Timbre de la
maison expéditrice

MAILED BY — DÉPOSÉ PAR

DEPARTMENT OF.....

Name or Firm

I. DISPATCHED
(Signature of Mail Room Clerk)

Nom ou Raison sociale

Fragile and perishable articles are not registered against damage
Pour les objets fragiles ou périssables, la recommandation ne s'applique pas à l'avarieDate Stamp of
Post Office

1 February

1968

Timbre à date du
bureau de poste

MAXIMUM INDEMNITY — INDEMNITÉ MAXIMUM

CANADA, UNITED STATES, its Territories and possessions

50¢ fee covering indemnity not exceeding \$50.00

75¢ fee covering indemnity not exceeding \$100.00

(fee must be indicated if more than 50¢)

OTHER COUNTRIES — 50¢ fee — Limit of indemnity \$8.83

CANADA, ÉTATS-UNIS, territoires et possessions des États-Unis

50c pour une indemnité maximum de \$50

75c pour une indemnité maximum de \$100

(il faut indiquer le droit, s'il dépasse 50c)

TOUS LES AUTRES PAYS — 50c pour une indemnité maximum de \$8.83

NUMBER NUMÉRO	NAME — NOM	FEE DROIT	ADDRESS — ADRESSE
123	Regional Personnel Office	1, Halifax, N.S.
124	Department of	2, Ottawa, Ont.
125	Mr. John Doe,	3, Vancouver, B.C.
126	Ajax Cleaner Co	4, Toronto, Ont.
		5	
		6	
		7	
		8	
		9	
		10	
		11	
		12	
		13	
		14	
		15	
		16	
		17	
		18	
		19	
		20	

SHEET No.
FEUILLE N° 1 of 1Number of Articles
Nombre d'objets 4Accepted by
Accepté par I RECEIVED

33-86-019 (6-67)

49B

- 3 – Assign register numbers to the items and enter these numbers in the book as appropriate.
- 4 – Stamp registered items with appropriate rubber stamp.
- 5 – Enter appropriate registered numbers on the stamped items.
- 6 – Extract the original and first copy from the Registered Letter Book.
- 7 – Sign the third copy in the book and pass book back to delivery service for return to originator.
- 8 – Retain items in numerical sequence.
- 9 – Tie securely to the items both the original and the first duplicate copy of the Registered Letter Book bills.
- 10 – Place tied packets in mail bag identified as “Registered Mail” for delivery to the Post Office at scheduled times.
- 11 – Add the registered numbers to a control sheet. OR
- 12 – Retain the third copy of the form 33-86-019, Post Office Registration Receipt.
- 13 – Check returned signed copies of the Registered Letter Book against the control sheet.
- 14 – Destroy the control sheet after verification check.
- 15 – Retain the returned signed copies of the Registered Letter Book. OR
- 16 – Check the returned signed copy of the form 33-86-019 against the interim mail room copy.
- 17 – Destroy the interim copy on verification.
- 18 – Retain the signed copy of form 33-86-019.

11. DIPLOMATIC MAIL – OUTGOING

- (1) In departments where diplomatic mail is an important consideration, this type of mail is normally received in the mail room already prepared in accordance with the regulations of the Department of External Affairs by the originating office. The special diplomatic envelopes or stickers are serially numbered and all other detail entered in the pre-printed blocks.
- (2) Dispatching procedures from the mail room are similar to the checking and receipting processes applied to registered mail articles.

12. OTHER SPECIAL MAIL SERVICES

- (1) Special Delivery Service may be used but this service applies only to those points listed as having such a service organized. This may be determined through the Canada Official Postal Guide.
- (2) Customs declarations forms are used for parcels in excess of 8 ounces for addressees outside Canada and are completed in accordance with the regulations governing dispatch to the country concerned.

13. MAIL INQUIRY SLIP

To avoid lengthy and possibly confusing telephone calls to departmental offices concerning omissions or irregularities in the dispatch of mail matter, a “Mail Inquiry Slip” may be evolved. This slip could be devised to cover similar problems encountered with incoming mail. It can be used by the mail clerks to return mail to offices where postal or security requirements have not been complied with (see Plate XIX.).

PLATE XIX

DEPARTMENTAL MAIL ROOM	
INCOMING/OUTGOING MAIL ENQUIRY SLIP	
<p>TO: <u>Dept'l Security Office</u></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The attached is returned for your information and necessary action. Your co-operation is requested in providing correct information for proper mail despatch:</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS INCOMPLETE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NOT PROPERLY ADDRESSED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED FOR POSTAGE (PERSONAL MAIL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED FOR SIGNATURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> UNDERLINE IN RED OFFICE OF DELIVERY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER REMARKS:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NOT PROPERLY DIRECTED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RECEIVED WITHOUT ATTACHMENT(S)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RETURN FOR MAILING ENVELOPE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SECURITY INFRACTION</p>
<p><u>2 Jan 67</u></p> <p>.....</p> <p style="font-size: small;">DATE</p>	<p><u>ABC</u></p> <p>.....</p> <p style="font-size: small;">SIGNATURE</p> <p>(Mail Clerk)</p>

- i) THE USE OF THIS FORM PROVIDES A MEANS BY WHICH OMISSIONS OR IRREGULARITIES IN THE RECEIPT OR DISPATCH OF MAIL MATTER, CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OFFICE CONCERNED.
- ii) THIS IS A SIMPLE AND IMPERSONAL WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH USER OFFICES.
- iii) AVOIDS TIME CONSUMING TELEPHONE CALLS.
- iv) NO HESITATION ON THE PART OF MAIL ROOM EMPLOYEES TO REJECT AND RETURN ITEMS OF MAIL WHICH DO NOT CONFORM TO ESTABLISHED OPERATING PROCEDURES OR POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.

14. LOST MAIL INQUIRY

To cope with the occasional inquiries which arise concerning lost mail, a form memorandum could be developed and used by the mail room to initiate a postal investigation. An example is shown as Plate XX.

PLATE XX

ALL POSTAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO MATTERS OF LOST MAIL SHOULD BE INSTITUTED
BY THE MAIL ROOM AND NOT BY THE DIFFERENT OFFICES OF A DEPARTMENT.

DEPARTMENTAL MAIL ROOM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED MAIL
LOST MAIL ENQUIRY		<input type="checkbox"/> ORDINARY MAIL

DATE OF ENQUIRY: Feb 5/67 REGISTRATION NO: 1234

ADDRESSEE: Mr John Doe

STREET: 425 Maple Street

CITY: Anytown, Ont.

ADDRESSEE DENIED RECEIPT: ☒ YES ☐ NO DATE: Feb 2/67

(1) DATE OF DESPATCH: Jan 3/67

(2) CONTENT OF ARTICLE: Salary Cheque

(3) INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY: John Smith

(4) BRANCH or DIVISION: Personnel Div LOCAL: 2-3072

(5) METHOD OF TRANSMISSIONS: ☒ AIR ☐ SURFACE ☐ NOT KNOWN

(6) DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE: ☐ ROLL ☐ PARCEL ☒ ENVELOPE

R. Brown
SIGNATURE

RESULT OF ENQUIRY

Post office advises that
registered letter 1234 was received
by the addressee's wife on
Jan. 5/67.
(Mr Smith advised accordingly)

☒ INVESTIGATION CLOSED UN-M-7 ☐ PENDING
Feb 15/67 A. Smith
DATE SIGNATURE

15. SERVICE VERIFICATION FORM

To aid in determining the appropriate service available, the form shown as Plate XXI could be used within a department. Its various uses are listed below.

PLATE XXI

DEPARTMENTAL MAIL ROOM									
TO:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">METHOD OF TRANSMISSION</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (S) <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (A) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (A) <input type="checkbox"/> PARCEL POST (S) (A) <input type="checkbox"/> ALL UP SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL DELIVERY </td> </tr> </table>	METHOD OF TRANSMISSION	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (S) <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (A) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (A) <input type="checkbox"/> PARCEL POST (S) (A) <input type="checkbox"/> ALL UP SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL DELIVERY						
METHOD OF TRANSMISSION									
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (S) <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CLASS MAIL (A) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (S) <input type="checkbox"/> PRINTED MATTER (A) <input type="checkbox"/> PARCEL POST (S) (A) <input type="checkbox"/> ALL UP SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL DELIVERY									
<p style="text-align: center;">This is one of a series that will be forwarded periodically via the different methods of transmission which are provided by the postal services as outlined above.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Upon receipt you are requested to complete the information as prescribed in Part "B" below, and return as soon as possible to the Supervisor, Departmental Mail Room.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 20px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">PART "A"</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">PART "B"</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">DATE OF DESPATCH</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">DATE RECEIVED</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">DELIVERY TO POST OFFICE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">TIME RECEIVED</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">DATE RETURNED</td> </tr> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 40px;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>.....</p> <p>DATE</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;"> <p>.....</p> <p>SIGNATURE</p> </div> </div>		PART "A"	PART "B"	DATE OF DESPATCH	DATE RECEIVED	DELIVERY TO POST OFFICE	TIME RECEIVED		DATE RETURNED
PART "A"	PART "B"								
DATE OF DESPATCH	DATE RECEIVED								
DELIVERY TO POST OFFICE	TIME RECEIVED								
	DATE RETURNED								

1. The use of the above form establishes beyond doubt the time elapsed in postal transmission between sender and addressee.
2. It settles administrative arguments.
3. It determines whether changes in service endorsements are required.

16. MAIL SEALING MACHINES

With the bulk postage payment system, some of the postage meter machine bases have been converted into mail sealing and post-mark dating printing machines. The practice of post-mark dating on outgoing envelopes by the mail room speeds up the handling of mail in the postal transmission operations of the Post Office Department.

17. SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS

In some departments, the mail room is assigned several associated functions such as:

- (a) addressograph service;
- (b) copying service;
- (c) bulk distribution of pamphlets, circulars, etc.

PART III

THE ROLE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

1. INFORMATION ON POST OFFICE REGULATIONS

(1) Although this part contains information which could be found in the manual "Canada Official Postal Guide", it is provided here for ready reference.

(2) All mail matter may be divided into four general classifications:

FIRST CLASS MAIL; SECOND CLASS MAIL; THIRD CLASS MAIL; FOURTH CLASS MAIL.

(3) First Class Mail is any communication or document wholly or partly in handwriting or typewriting, sealed or unsealed, except manuscripts of books and newspapers. Post cards wholly or partly in handwriting or typewriting are included in this class.

(4) Second Class Mail includes newspapers and periodicals printed and published in Canada and posted by the publisher at the post office in the postal area where they are published.

(5) Third Class Mail is often referred to as "PRINTED MATTER". It refers to reproductions in several identical copies by means of a mechanical or photographic process involving the use of a plate or negative. This does not include typewritten originals or carbon copies. This class may also include partly printed and partly written matter such as customs manifests and government documents and returns on official blanks. Where doubt may exist, the eligibility of specific items should be obtained from postal officials.

(6) Fourth Class Mail is also known as "PARCEL POST" and includes farm and factory products and merchandises of all descriptions. Parcels consisting of third class matter may also be mailed as parcel post.

(7) In addition to these four classifications, the Post Office offers SPECIAL SERVICES for mail matter as follows:

- (a) Householder Mail is third class matter, unaddressed or addressed simply "HOUSEHOLDER" or "BOXHOLDER", etc. without any further address. It is the duty of the Postmaster to see that one piece is delivered to each point of call as far as the supply permits. This type of mailing is particularly useful for mailing of large quantities of Printed Matter where the desire is to cover each point of call in a specific area without reference to individual addresses. Use of this service may result in a considerable savings to departments in processing costs. Departments should ensure, through the local Post Office, the correct make-up, content and classification of such material;
- (b) C.O.D. — Cash On Delivery — is a system whereby mail matter may be sent subject to the collection of charges from the addressee for remittance to the sender by post office money order;
- (c) Special Delivery letters and parcels addressed for delivery within the letter carrier delivery area of Post Offices will be given priority handling through the mails and at the receiving end. When mailed, special delivery items must bear a special delivery sticker obtainable from the Post Office. They must be handed to Post Office personnel separate from the ordinary mail.

2. **ADVICE ON ADDRESSING AND PREPARATION OF OUTGOING MAIL**

(1) Addressing — all items of mail should bear an address which is complete and clear and free of any unnecessary words or notations and should include:

- (a) name of addressee;
- (b) suite or apartment number;
- (c) number of house, apartment block, hotel, etc.;
- (d) name of street, road, etc.;
- (e) name of city, town, etc. in CAPITAL LETTERS;
- (f) postal zone designation when addressed to major cities; and
- (g) name of province, or state;
- (h) name of country, if other than Canada.

EXAMPLE

Mr. John Kirkgrove,
Apt. 303, 1414 Glensell Road,
TORONTO 14, Ontario.

(2) Preparation of all types of mail should be such that it may be handled in the postal service in an efficient and speedy manner. Different classes of mail should not be mixed together and this should be particularly avoided in the case of first class mail. Since first class mail usually requires a high priority of handling, it must not be mixed with the other classes of mail with lower priorities.

(3) Large first class items should always be endorsed "FIRST CLASS MAIL". Where volumes of such mailings are fairly large, rubber stamps should be used for the purpose. Large items of first class mail not so endorsed may not be recognized and consequently be processed as Printed Matter by the Post Office.

(4) Items requiring special services, such as Registered Mail or Special Delivery, must be separated from ordinary mail when sent to the Post Office.

(5) Personal outgoing mail with postage stamps affixed should be bundled separately from the official department mail. However, the use of the mail room as a transporting facility to the Post Office for personal mail should be discouraged.

3. **INQUIRIES AND REPORTS**

Inquiries on delay, damage, loss, etc. should be made to the postal authorities immediately it becomes apparent that such delay, damage or loss has occurred. All pertinent details should be made available to postal officials. These would include name and address of the sender and addressee, time and date of mailing, and in the case of delay the time of arrival at the place of delivery. For lost or damaged mail, a full description of the article is required.

4. **POST OFFICE ASSISTANCE**

(1) Post Office assistance to government departments in the field of mail processing is an expanding programme and the Post Office Department is prepared to afford technical guidance and advice to other government departments in establishing and organizing mail rooms and mail handling techniques.

(2) In addition, the Post Office Department is able to provide advice on many mailing problems such as bulk mailings of Printed Matter and Householder items. Such assistance will help the departments to prepare and mail large volumes of various classes of mail in an economical and efficient manner so that the best service will be obtained at a reasonable cost.

(3) The mail manager should maintain a good knowledge of the Post Office Regulations. He should keep himself informed of the changes in postal regulations, and, in particular, should have a knowledge of mail dispatch schedules from the Post Office to distant points and should be aware of schedule changes as they occur.

APPENDIX "A"

INCOMING MAIL OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	BRANCH, DIVISION, or UNIT		
LOCATION	OFFICER in CHARGE		PHONE
	YES	NO	Otherwise Remarks
1. Organization			
(a) Is the Mail Operations & Service a responsibility of the Records Manager?			
(b) If not, why not?			
(c) Are there any other Mail Rooms in the organization? *			
2. Receipt of Mail from Post Office			
(a) At what time(s) is mail received?			
(b) How is it delivered?			
(c) What is the total volume received? (Average per day, week or month)			
(d) How is this volume determined? (By a count, measure or weight)			
(e) Is mail room staff on hand before the regular working hours so that processing is begun immediately when mail is received?			
(f) If mail is time or date stamped, what mail-types are so processed and why?			
(g) What is the volume of mail so stamped? (Average as above)			
3. Initial Sort			
(a) Into what categories is mail first sorted immediately on receipt?			
(b) After initial sort, what mail-types are forwarded UNOPENED for delivery?			
(c) What is the volume of such unopened mail? (Average)			

*If yes, separate checklist must be completed for each.

APPENDIX "B"

MESSENGER SERVICES and INTER-OFFICE MAIL OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

	YES	NO	REMARKS
Messenger Services			
(1) Is delivery and pick-up performed on an established schedule?			
(2) If so, what is this schedule — is there a written schedule?			
(3) Does the frequency of trips provide adequate service?			
(4) Excessive service?			
(5) Are the delivery routes arranged so that there is no overlapping or duplication?			
(6) Are the delivery stops based on an assessment of the requirements?			
(7) Are the requirements re-appraised at specific intervals?			
(8) Are requirements revised and adjusted to organizational and/or physical changes which occur?			
(9) Is there a floor plan of routes and stops?			
(10) Do messengers sort inter-office mail en route as it is collected so that delivery is made during a trip so far as possible?			
(11) Is SPECIAL messenger service controlled and provided only for most exceptional cases?			
(12) Are messengers:			
(i) centrally pooled?			
(ii) if so, based at the Mail Room?			
(iii) assigned otherwise on a planned basis?			
(iv) if so, how is this done?			
(13) What is the average cost of transporting one thousand pieces of mail by the messenger service? (i.e. total cost of messenger service divided by total volume of mail transported, times 1000)			
(14) Are mechanical systems in use in lieu of messengers for delivery to central points or stations?			
(15) If not, are there any plans for such a system?			
(16) List the amounts and kinds of equipments, supplies (including forms) used by the messengers:			
(i) hand-trucks;			
(ii) boxes, locked or unlocked;			
(iii) motor vehicles.			

APPENDIX "C"

OUTGOING MAIL OPERATIONAL CHECKLIST

	YES	NO	REMARKS
1. Receipt in Mail Room for Post Office			
(a) At what time(s) is mail received from departmental offices?			
(b) What is the total volume received? (Averages)			
(c) How is this volume determined? (By count, measure or weight)			
(d) Is mail staff on hand after regular working hours so that mail is all processed for delivery to Post Office?			
(e) Are outgoing dispatches co-ordinated with Post Office schedules?			
(f) How is mail delivered to Post Office?			
2. Dispatch Preparation			
(a) In preparation for dispatch which of the following actions are performed in the Mail Room:			
(i) a check for proper number and kinds of copies present?			
(ii) a check for all enclosures present?			
(iii) correspondence and letter address comparative check?			
(iv) removal of copies present but not for mailing?			
(v) time-stamping of copies not for mailing?			
(vi) assignment of serial numbers?			
(b) Are mail envelopes sorted before being bagged for delivery to the Post Office?			
(c) If so, how:			
(i) by provinces?			
(ii) by Canadian geographical areas?			
(iii) for overseas?			
(iv) for U.S.A.?			
(v) for airmail?			
(vi) for diplomatic?			
(vii) registered mail?			
(viii) local delivery?			
(d) Is mail bulk-enveloped by addressees?			
(e) If not, why not?			

	YES	NO	REMARKS
<p>3. Control Processes — Recording</p> <p>(a) What mail-types are recorded before dispatch?</p> <p>(b) What is the volume of such mail?</p> <p>(c) What type of record is made or used? (Card; ledger; letter-book.)</p> <p>(d) How is this record arranged:</p> <p>(i) by date of letter?</p> <p>(ii) by sender source?</p> <p>(iii) by delivery source?</p> <p>(e) What entries are made on this record?</p> <p>(f) What use is made of this record?</p> <p>(g) What is the rate of reference to this record?</p> <p>(h) What time is consumed in making this record?</p> <p>(j) How long is this record kept?</p> <p>4. Control Processes — Briefing</p> <p>(a) What mail-types are briefed?</p> <p>(b) What is the volume of such mail?</p> <p>(c) What use is made of this brief?</p> <p>(d) What is the rate of reference to this brief?</p> <p>(e) What time is consumed in making this brief?</p> <p>(f) How long is this brief kept?</p> <p>5. Copying</p> <p>(a) Is mail reproduced for:</p> <p>(i) follow-up?</p> <p>(ii) file purposes?</p> <p>(b) If so, are copies made by:</p> <p>(i) typing?</p> <p>(ii) photocopying?</p> <p>(iii) stencil/plate?</p> <p>(c) If so, what is the volume processed for copying?</p> <p>(d) What is the volume of copies produced?</p> <p>(e) Therefore, the average number of copies is</p> <p>6. Special Processes</p> <p>(a) Do security classifications on mail impose special handling processing, such as double enveloping, wax-sealing of envelopes, registration entries for receipt signatures?</p>			

	YES	NO	REMARKS
(b) Are these equipments adequate as to amount and type and are they placed for maximum efficiency of use?			
(c) What is the schematic workflow for outgoing mail? see also A.10(d).			
10. Other Observations			

APPENDIX "D"**BIBLIOGRAPHY****CANADA OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE**

Part I

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(See pp. 491-492 : 540 — 549)

SECURITY OF INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA

Office of the Privy Council,

November, 1956

(See pp. dealing with postal transmission)

